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# COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

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## A JUNE DAY.

And what is so rare as a day in June ?  
Then, if ever, come perfect days ;  
Then heaven tries the earth if it be in tune,  
And over it softly her warm ear lays ;  
Whether we look or whether we listen,  
We hear life murmur, or see it glisten ;  
Every clod feels a stir of might,  
An instinct within it that reaches and towers,  
And, groping blindly above it for light,  
Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers ;  
The flush of life may well be seen  
Thrilling back over hills and valleys ;  
The cowslip startles in meadows green,  
The buttercup catches the sun in its chalice ;  
And there's never a leaf or a blade too mean  
To be some happy creature's palace ;  
The little bird sits at his door in the sun,  
Atitl like a blossom among the leaves,  
And lets his illumined being o'errun  
With the deluge of summer it receives ;  
His mate feels the eggs beneath her wings,  
And the heart in her dumb breast flutters and sings ;  
He sings to the wide world, and she to her nest —  
In the nice ear of Nature, which song is the best ?

— JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.





## PRIZE WINNERS FOR JUNE.

Sam P. Davis, First Prize.  
Howard Marcus Strong, Second Prize.  
Bradley Gilman, Third Prize.  
W. Bert Foster, Fourth Prize.  
Frank T. Sweet, Fifth Prize.

## THE TENDERFOOT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SAM P. DAVIS.

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WAS plain to the most casual observer that the gentleman who arrived at the Western Hotel, Tombstone, Arizona, was a tenderfoot. His air, his walk and his attire all proclaimed the manner of the man.

The loungers about the bar room sized him up as he registered his name and each of these keen observers of character mentally reached the conclusion that he was just the sort of a man that somebody was certain to have some fun with before night.

There was indeed much in his makeup which was calculated to give offence to the more settled population of Tombstone. He wore clothes of a fashionable cut, flaunted tidy shoes in the face of the community and offered no apologies for a shirt as outrageously clean as had ever reared its affronting presence in the town.

"He'll be wearing a plug hat by to-morrow," was the observation of Lumpy Jaw Pete, who was getting nervous as he contemplated the stranger's exasperating bearing, and when the latter had asked to be shown his room without inviting the gathering to treat, it was clear to everybody that here was a case in which it was fairly becoming to the better element to assert the dignity and traditions of Tombstone.

"When he comes downstairs agin," said Pete, "I'll see that he does some dancin' for the amusement of the crowd."

The crowd, in anticipation of this amusement, remained to see the sort of Terpsichorean exercise the stranger might be induced to favor them with, under the stimulus of Pete's persuasive six shooter. The fact that Pete contemplated amusing himself with the new arrival soon advertised itself and there was a general movement toward the Western Hotel.

"I suppose the fellow's a washin' up," remarked Pete, anxious to frame some reasonable excuse for the familiarity he was about to indulge in with the eastern gentleman.

As he spoke the stranger once more stepped into the room and, without noticing the crowd drew a chair to the stove, and taking a cigar case from his pocket drew forth a weed, and before the crowd could recover, produced a silver match case. Slipping a match from the case he was about to bite the end of the cigar when there came the sharp crack of Pete's pistol.

The match, held an instant in view between Pete and the stove, was too tempting a mark to overlook and he had essayed to demolish it with his bullet, but just as he had touched the trigger it had been lowered a trifle and the shot, grazing the brimstone, ignited it. The ball flattened itself against the stove. As the match flamed up the stranger, without looking round, held the cigar in the place so lately occupied by the match and remarked:

"Thanks awfully. Please take another shot at the tip of this cigar and then have a smoke with me."

It would hardly be the thing to refuse a banter like that and Pete removed the tip of the weed with a second bullet; then it seemed to dawn upon him that he was not exactly having any very considerable amount of fun with the stranger. The man lit his cigar with the match that Pete had so unwittingly ignited and Pete concluded it was time to assert himself or forever acknowledge that he had been downed by a tenderfoot who might for all he knew hail from as far back east as Boston.

"What might your business be stranger?" he inquired, holding the gun toward him in a grossly familiar way.

"It might be yours, but possibly it isn't," was the reply as the man from the east continued filling the air with smoke.

It was now clear to Pete that he had received provocation sufficient to excuse him if he opened actual hostilities.

"Do you ever dance?"

"In my younger days I was considered a fair

waltzer but late years I have regarded the accomplishment as one of the ridiculous follies of my youth."

"Wal, stranger, I've concluded to invite you to renew the follies of your younger days and if yer don't git out on the sawdust here and give the company a jig I'll begin a blowin' of yer feet off. So hop in now and make the deal lively and get to work quick."

"So you say the penalty of non-compliance with your request will be the loss of both feet?" "You've got it sized up about right and I'm glad to see that you catch on without too much explaining my game. Now you understand the prop, git up and perform."

The Easterner's left leg was thrown carelessly across his knee and his foot was between Pete and the stove, an easy mark as every one could see, with the stove in the background to take the bullet.

"Would you like to wager something on your marksmanship?" he said, quietly, as he took a wallet from his pocket.

Pete glanced at the wallet and shifted his hand toward his weapon which for a few moments had been back in his belt.

"I will lay a hundred even that you cannot make me move my foot from the place where it now is. A hundred a shot and for each shot you have left. You have four remaining shots and that makes four hundred dollars and the distance is but about eight feet I should say. Come my good man don't hesitate, you certainly ought not to miss a mark like that. It seems to me like picking money up. If you lose I will then take some shots at your feet on the same terms, but of course I want my turn—after you of course—that is, if you lose I will give you a chance to get your money back. But if you win and possibly you may, then I will not ask for a return match. They do say that I am a dead game sport where I live and if I lose my money no one ever hears a whimper after that. Here, let the landlord hold the stakes," and as he spoke he shoved \$400 in crisp bills into the landlord's hands.

"It do for shore look like a fair prop, Pete," said Borax Bill. "He don't git nary a shot at you unless yer miss. It looks to me like gittin' into the Tombstone Bank safe and the cashier drunk."

"I'll see yer four hundred and raise it to a thousand," said Pete, drawing out his wallet.

The stranger immediately produced another roll of bills and said carelessly:

"Would you mind going a little higher?"

Pete had gone to the foot of his wallet and couldn't "come again." It chagrined him to realize that he was unable to meet the raise of a tenderfoot but he had to stand it.

"Possibly some other of you gentlemen would like to realize a little money on this transaction," continued the tenderfoot as he waved a handful of bills about the circle.

"Is the bet that Pete can't make you take your foot down in four shots?"

"That is my understanding of it, sir."

In an instant several wallets were in evidence and it did not take long to get a couple of thousand dollars more up as stakes. It was promptly covered by the imperturbable tenderfoot and when there was no more money forthcoming he poised his foot in front of the stove and asked Pete if he was ready.

Pete responded to the query by lifting his weapon, and faster than one could count the shots he sent four bullets crashing through the stranger's foot. The latter merely puffed his cigar and the foot never so much as moved an inch.

There was a silence over all the crowd as the man sat there with his foot rent by the bullets, but his nerve never weakened and there was no change of countenance to tell of the horrible pain that must have racked him.

"Gentlemen, do I win or lose?"

"You win," came from all in one breath, and at this the landlord handed the money over.

"I believe it is my turn now," said the stranger, rising and covering Pete's foot with a six-shooter. The latter turned pale and edged away.

"You can't shirk it, Pete," came from several at once, and they laid hands on him and forced him to face the stranger. "You lamed a boy here years ago and this 'll even it up."

"That boy was my son," continued the tenderfoot, and a moment later he sent a bullet through Pete's instep and the man was dragged away howling with agony.

"Do you need any doctor for your foot?" they asked as they crowded about the man who now had \$3000 of Tombstone money safe in his wallet.

"It's hardly the kind of a foot that needs an M. D. I'll fix up a new one when I get upstairs. I always carry a couple of extra ones when I travel in the West. If you need any legs or feet while I am in Tombstone give me a call."

The tenderfoot laid down his card and skipped lightly upstairs. It read:

Artificial Limbs and Feet. Vulcanized Rubber Feet a Specialty. Have worn one for four years. Call and see it. SILAS SKINNER, Boston, Mass.

It was many moons before Lumpy Jaw Pete again proposed to make fun for the crowd at the expense of a so-called "tenderfoot."

## A TREATMENT FOR COLOR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HOWARD MARCUS STRONG.

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Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the Leopard his spots?—Jeremiah.



AMDEN Heard added M. D. to his name—at his father's expense—and a prodigal growth of unkempt beard to his face. After graduation, and a year of hospital work, he returned to his native town, put out his sign, and inquired concernedly as to the state of the public health. His old friends and neighbors listened with commendable patience while he expounded unto them anatomy from *parietal* to *hullux*; but, though he charged madly through the street at

all hours of the day and night, medicine-chest in hand, no one was ever inspired with any confidence in his ability to successfully combat the various ills that assail the flesh. They had known him as a boy; and a prophet—or other professional man—is not without honor save in his own country.

It took some time for the true situation to dawn upon Heard. But he came to realize that he was playing a losing game, for Fate threw loaded dice. Pride prevented an immediate surrender, but at the expiration of one year he went South for his health.

Attracted by a sweeping reduction in rates, Heard joined a "home-seekers" excursion that had Georgia as its ultimate destination. The particular spot to which they journeyed was canon-typed as the land flowing with milk and honey, where man could fare sumptuously every day on Nature's bounty, leaving the morrow to care for itself.

One evening, in company with ten land-boomers and three victimized investors, Dr. Camden Heard stepped from the train at La Grange. It was a step that he regretted at once, and many times thereafter. The sudden transition from the rush and roar of the rail to the complete coma of La Grange was depressing. He remarked something to this effect:

"It's not dead," one of the boomers hastened to assure him. "Not dead but sleeping. Wait till we get the two peach-canneries, and the cotton-spinners, and the creamery, and the cotton-seed oil factories, and—just wait."

From force of circumstances Heard was compelled to wait. Fortunately for him, two of the victimized investors had cramp colic the day following their arrival—due, perhaps, to the richness of the milk and honey. This gave the new doctor an opportunity to demonstrate his ability.

It is needless to enumerate the various patients—mostly blacks—that sought the aid of Dr. Heard while he was endeavoring to make himself a fixture in the place. He was able to live without calling for any paternal assistance, and that was something to be thankful for, notwithstanding the fact that the arrogant whites resented his presence as an intrusion.

After one of his busiest days, Heard was about to close up his office when a tall, good-looking negro entered.

"Well, Collat," said the doctor, "what can I do for you? I'm bound to say you don't look like a man in need of quinine or calomel."

"I am not, sir," the negro answered. "I doubt if you have any drugs that will help my case."

"Let's hear the worst," said the doctor, encouragingly. "I'll guarantee to help you."

For a moment the negro's face lighted with hope.

"You know something of my situation," he said.

"Yes," Heard replied lightly; "you are the richest colored man in the South; you drive the fastest horses in Georgia; you have education, refinement—all the advantages that anyone could ask for."

"What you say is true," Collat answered. "God has seen fit to bless and prosper me far beyond anything that I deserve; but He has withheld the one thing that I most desire. Doctor, my life is a living hell. Better never to have been born, than to have been born a black! Perhaps brooding over the matter has unsettled my mind—I do not know; but I have dreamed that you could help me, and I still cling to the superstitious beliefs of my race—it is a part of me. Tell me this, sir, is there anything in the world that will make me white—if only for a day? Everything that I possess shall be yours if you can accomplish it."

The negro had worked himself up into a kind of frenzy, and he paced the office with clinched hands and heaving chest. Heard felt inclined to laugh, but seeing the condition of the man, he deemed it wise to humor him.

"I'm sure, Collat," he replied, "I never

learned of any treatment that would make black white. However, I will give the subject some thought, and perhaps we might try some experiments. Come back in a week."

From considering the matter in the light of a joke, Heard came to the point of earnest investigation. He made a thorough study of every bleaching agent known to science. And then, not satisfied with his own researches, he consulted a score of eminent chemists, withholding from them, of course, the real object that he wished to accomplish. The greatest obstacle in the way of success was the tenderness of the human skin. It seemed impossible to obtain satisfactory results without burning and blistering the entire surface of the body.

When about to give up the undertaking, Heard received something like an inspiration. He remembered that at college the negro subjects for dissection, when kept for any time in the brine tank, turned a grayish white. If the bath could be made to work more rapidly on a living subject, the problem would be solved.

While these investigations were going on, Collat had never let a day pass without seeing the doctor. And when Heard at last announced that there was a reasonable hope of success, the negro was almost wild with joy.

"Well, Collat," Heard said one evening, "I think the time has about come to give it a trial. Are you ready for it?"

The negro's agitation was so great that he could not form the words of a reply, but he followed the doctor to the bathroom and gazed with rolling eyes at the milky solution in the tub. Under Heard's direction he removed his clothing, placed two little rubber plugs and tubes in his nostrils, then submerged himself in the liquid.

Thirty minutes later the doctor rapped on the side of the tub and Collat sprang out. Scarcely had his feet touched the floor when he screamed with pain and clapped his hand over his eyes.

"Why don't you speak?" he cried. "Tell me man, am I white? This stuff has gotten into my eyes and I can't see. I'll kill you if I'm still a black!"

"You're still a nigger," Heard replied with a sneer, "but your skin is whiter than mine."

"Thank God!" Collat shouted, sinking down on his knees and beating his breast. "Thank God!"

"Better thank me," said the doctor. "The

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Almighty made you a negro. I made you white. Now, Collat," he continued in a business-like tone, "let's have a clear understanding about this transaction. You offered me everything you possessed if I could accomplish this change. That was a little effusive. What do you propose paying me?"

But Collat was in no condition of mind to talk rationally. It was all Heard could do to get him dressed and started on his way home. For a period of six months Collat was lost sight of—not the black one alone, but likewise the white one. At the end of that time he returned, all white but the backs of his hands. Heard refused to have anything to do with him.

"I never allow the same man to make a fool of me twice," the doctor told him.

"But I'm turning black again," Collat pleaded. "You'll stay that way, as far as I'm concerned," Heard replied. "The first treatment has proved a whitewash all around."

"I forgot what a debt of gratitude I owed you," persisted Collat. "I was so overjoyed that my brain was turned. If you will just treat me now I will double the amount of your charge."

"Twice nothing," murmured the doctor.

A few days later Collat returned with a small hand-bag. It contained about ten thousand dollars in bills.

"It's all the cash I could raise on short notice," he said. "I want you to take it all and make me white once more. See here!—there are great brown patches all over my neck and arms."

Heard refused the money and ordered the unfortunate man away from his office.

"I really don't think it's safe to have a nigger masquerading under a white man's skin," he said. "There's too much animal in them."

"Have you no pity or compassion?" pleaded Collat. "Merciful Heaven, man! I have married a white wife. Only think of my situation!"

Heard laughed until the tears stood in his eyes. "That's the nigger of it," he observed.

"Then," cried Collat, "if you won't help me, I'll mix up the brine bath myself."

"You are a fool," Heard retorted. "Do you suppose that it took nothing but salt to work that metamorphosis?"

Collat slunk away with sullen threats of revenge.

"Revenge," mused the doctor, "what revenge could equal mine! At any rate I have done the right thing by the white woman he deceived."

Meanwhile the woman in question had been visiting friends in La Grange. Heard of course failed to connect Mrs. Jean Attro with the wife of Collat. One evening as Mrs. Attro was passing along a dark street, a burly negro caught her in his arms and kissed her.

"Vat!" he cried, "you must not be afraid of me. I'm turning black.—Don't you know me—my voice?—I'm Jean. For God's sake don't send me away—I love you so."

The frantic screams of a woman quickly roused the town. A crowd of men were soon running in the direction of the outcry. They found the negro with the woman still clasped in his arms.

"She's mine, I tell you!" the negro cried.

Then he was grappled from behind and violently thrown to the ground.

"Collat!—it's Collat!" the crowd shouted.

"Keep quiet, boys," said the man who was holding Collat down by the throat. "Take the woman away and we'll soon do for this black brute."

Toward morning the crowd pushed out over the low red hills and far into the country. In their midst Collat struggled wildly. His prayers and curses could be heard long after the men had disappeared through the first fringe of pines. The next day the papers of the country chronicled another lynching in Georgia.

It is said that Dr. Camden Heard did everything in his power to save the life of the negro. He even went so far as to claim that Collat really was the husband of Mrs. Attro. That is why he had to leave the State on short notice.

## AUNT DEBBY'S WHALE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BRADLEY GILMAN.

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A free carriage to and from the railway station

COMPETITION for boarders was very close, that summer, at Brant Bay. The Hotel at the Point, was of course always full; its "orchestra," (a flute cornet and piano) lifted it to the level of easy superiority; but among the boarding-houses, competition was as intense and open. When the "Smith Cottage" bought a new croquet-set, the "Jones Villa" added some large red armchairs to its piazza; when the "Mariner's Rest" put on a

the "Bellevue Inn" erected two new bath-houses, "for guests only." At the "Sunset Pavilion," where Aunt Debby presided, the attractions were the "home cooking," and a "boiling spring," behind the house, said (by Aunt Debby), to contain minerals of great curative power.

In addition to these attractive features, Aunt Debby's husband, "Captain L'ander," might be mentioned; he had some local fame, among the young people, as a skilled fisherman; and, among their mammas—as a cautious skipper. You could always find Captain L'ander, when he was not away on his boat, by following the house until you came to the shed; there in the doorway he commonly sat, his long, lank form doubled up on a three-legged stool, a huge brown calico apron tied about his waist, a corn-cob pipe in mouth, and a pan of peas, or some potatoes, in his lap. There the casual visitor might be allowed to see him, but briefly, and for business purposes only. Five minutes was considered by vigilant Aunt Debby long enough to arrange about tide, bait, and the price of the Captain's cat-boat; if you lingered beyond this limit, her small wiry form appeared at the kitchen door, and her shrill voice summoned the Captain to feed the chickens, or split some firewood, or run to the store on an "errand."

Aunt Debby did not spare herself, any more than her meek, patient husband. She cooked, and made beds, and "did all her own work." The Captain had rarely appeared inside the house since that unhappy morning when he walked absent-mindedly into the front room, among the boarders, barefooted, and with "gallusers" dangling at his heels. Thenceforth he occupied the shed, and had a bunk in the loft.

Despite her hardworking sixty years, Aunt Debby's alert eyes and ears kept her informed upon all the affairs of the Bay. She knew how many rooms remained empty in every house, why the family from Philadelphia had left the Seaside Inn, what price the rich patent-medicine proprietor paid at the "Wanderer's Retreat," and how to work over the roast of one day into a delicious stew for the day following.

Competition, however, was close, and although the "Sunset Pavilion" had its fair share of patronage, Aunt Debby strained every nerve, in order, as she plaintively put it—"to make both ends meet."

Competition never had been so severe as this summer; but Aunt Debby was devout, and, in her way, trusted in Providence, next to trusting in her own vigorous self; so that when a whale washed ashore, one stormy night, close by the bridge near the Pavilion, she felt that it had been providentially sent to her very door, as a counter-attraction to the Bowling Alley recently erected at the Mariner's Rest, just across the Bay.

There was great excitement over the huge dead monster. Aunt Debby's prescient eye instantly saw in it a rare means of income. She presently directed the "Capt'n" to make it fast by a hawser to one of the piers of the bridge; then she dispatched him to the village for a carpenter and lumber; and, by high-noon of that day, the leviathan was surrounded by a board-fence, and the captain was seated at the entrance, taking fifteen cents from every curious person who "wanted to see the whale."

Of course everybody came to gaze at the novel sight; boarders from all the other houses, school-children and parents from the neighboring towns, and even opulent guests from the hotel at the Point, asking, carelessly, to have ten—and even twenty-dollar bills changed; (and, after the first few hours, Capt'n L'ander could easily change them.)

Aunt Debby's pulse beat rapidly, but, outwardly she gave no sign of excitement; her thin, nervous lips twitched slightly, and she rattled the dishes in the kitchen a bit more than usual; few persons could have detected the high exultation of ownership which filled her soul; yet, underneath all, the good woman's fundamental principles and sympathies remained unbroken; for, when one of the shiftless families from the village came over, hoping to catch some glimpse of the now famous monster, Aunt Debby let them all go in, father, mother, eight children and two dogs, without charge.

The Captain's pockets bulged out with copper and silver coins; and, for his part, he would have been satisfied to "let well enough alone;" but when Aunt Debby saw the exciting "story" of the whale, in the local newspaper, and took note of the eager crowd coming from the railroad station, she went through some violent internal commotion, and ordered the Capt'n to climb up to the sprawling sign over the entrance, "Admission 15 cents," and change the figure "1" to "2."

Not the least part of Aunt Debby's joy was in her turgid sense of victory; she loved money, but she loved success and power more; yet even in this very flush of her towering supremacy over her rivals, her warm heart asserted itself, and she sent word to every proprietor around the Bay to come and see the whale on her invitation, without charge.

Two days passed, and the crowds grew more dense. Three days passed, three hot August days, and the crowd was just as large, the eagerness to enter was quite as great, but—people came out rather hurriedly, and with a certain

peculiar appearance of relief. That evening, Capt'n L'ander's brown, wrinkled face wore a troubled expression. He cautiously beckoned his wiry, bespectacled little helpmeet out to the shed, carefully closed the door, and confided to her his fears that "the critter was a-spillin'."

"Nonsense!" exclaimed Aunt Debby. "No such thing!" And she marched straight out through the darkness, to the enclosure, sniffed and sniffed again, and could smell nothing; not she.

Capt'n L'ander had followed her, with a dejected air; and when his energetic wife exclaimed, with conviction, that she could not detect the slightest smell, he meekly assented, and stammered that he "guessed that he was mistaken."

The next day the rays of the sun poured down as fervidly as ever; and, although the Captain tried his best to ignore the fact, the universal testimony of the crowd of plain-speaking visitors corroborated the testimony of his own nose, and he was silent and thoughtful.

Late in the afternoon Aunt Debby came out, and inspected her prize. She apparently took no notice of the protective actions of the people about her, and the Captain said nothing. That evening, however, she ordered her husband to "dress the whale;" and the "dressing" process was carried out; with knife and spade and hoe the offending viscera of the whale were removed, and were carried away by wheelbarrow loads, and dumped at low water mark on the marsh.

Another morning dawned, and the crowds still flocked to see the monster; receipts were large, but the Captain seemed more and more depressed. Aunt Debby, however, carried an air of resolute cheerfulness, and her husband held no conversation with her. She clattered the dishes more than ever, and none of her boarders seemed inclined to mention the whale in her presence. Among themselves, and even with the Captain, they talked freely of the objectionable odor which was daily growing stronger, and was causing much sharp comment among the other boarding-houses. That afternoon the attendance decreased greatly. The few people who went inside the enclosure, came out with hands over noses, with much coughing and with very dry faces.

During the afternoon Aunt Debby went up to town, and returned with several bulky packages. Early the next morning, she and the Captain were seen to be busily engaged in mixing various liquids in a barrel and some pails; and a strong odor of cheap perfume permeated the neighborhood, and struggled hopelessly with the odor of the defunct leviathan. Captain Leander was seen to go into the enclosure, with a garden-pump, and pail after pail of a lemon-colored fluid. When the earliest spectators arrived they discovered the Captain spraying the great creature, as if it had been a plumtree or a grapevine; and the powerful odor of perfume and decaying tissue was penetrating, but unpleasant, in the extreme.

The local newspaper, that day, contained several playful allusions to the "new guest," at the Bay; and, in an obscure corner of the editorial page, could be read an enigmatic paragraph, a brief leader, on "the strength of whales," as compared with other animals. Aunt Debby rarely wasted time on newspapers; but Captain L'ander read it all, and grew more depressed.

That noon, after dinner, the boarders at the "Pavilion," Aunt Debby's house—held a secret indignation meeting; and three of them gave notice that they were going away the next morning. Through it all, scowls, sniffs, laughter, and ill-concealed jokes, Aunt Debby's utter ignorance of her boarders' and neighbors' feelings was remarkable. Her piercing gray eyes seemed to see nothing wrong; and that sharp thin nose, so keen to detect odors of burning in the kitchen, was strangely dull to the rank, oppressive odor, which brooded over all the neighborhood like a malignant mist.

Aunt Debby always clung tenaciously to an idea, when once she had given it hospitality; up to the present moment her idea, her conviction, her determined will was—that the whale was wholly unobjectionable and harmless. But when the Board of Health appeared, as they did, that evening, she could no longer refuse to recognize the ugly facts in the case. She sat stiffly on the edge of her chair, as they timidly and awkwardly made known to her, that the case was a desperate one and must be met promptly with some sort of remedy. What that remedy should be, they did not suggest; but they intimated that the whale was hers and that she must dispose of it at once, or the law against public nuisances would be enforced.

The whale certainly was hers; hers and the Captain's; he was their property; the whole of him; his body indeed, was on their land only; but his presence was felt, or sensed, so to speak, along the entire shore. They must certainly do something to quiet the popular indignation.

Anybody except Aunt Debby would have given over the struggle at once, and sought means of disposing of the objectionable monster; but that energetic person asked tartly for a delay of twenty-four hours in the proceedings of the Board; and it was with

great reluctance granted her.

She at once gathered materials, and promptly set about "pickling" the creature as she had many a time successfully pickled pork and beef; she prepared barrels of strong salt brine; and Captain Leander—much suffering martyr—was ordered to cut openings in the creature and fill him with the preserving fluid.

In vain, in vain! Nature could not be balked, even by the resolute little woman in spectacles; and the nauseous odor, which permeated the neighborhood, became so heavy and oppressive that even Aunt Debby herself admitted—to her husband only—"that the critter did smell rather strong."

Matters were growing more and more desperate. It was generally believed that the Captain and his wife were about at their wit's end. Their boarders had all departed, except one infirm old lady whose sight and hearing—and, presumably her sense of smell—were much impaired, and a college boy, who had exceeded his allowance, and had no money to settle his bill and buy a railroad ticket. The Captain's air of depression had increased to an anxious and almost alarming degree; but his wife's under jaw gripped her upper one more firmly than ever, as she grimly tried one expedient after another, to rid herself of her obnoxious property.

The fame of the whale had now spread far and wide. Boston newspapers referred to it sarcastically, and letters of inquiry and suggestion came to the Pavilion, in every mail.

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The Board of Health met twice, and discussed the matter thoroughly; but while they agreed as to the flagrancy of the nuisance, they could offer no definite advice as to its abatement.

Captain Leander began to receive insulting, threatening letters; and he was now so despondent and distracted that he stayed close in the house; or, rather in the shed. Aunt Debby several times counted over the money received from admissions—one hundred and eighty-eight dollars and seventy-five cents—and grimly balanced it against the loss of boarders.

Finally Captain Leander broke down. The over-worked and much harassed man walked despairingly into the front parlor, sat himself down in the best new rocking-chair and silently wept.

The sight of her husband's break-down moved Aunt Debby more than could the anger of her neighbors, or the threats of the Board of Health. She was deeply stirred, but even now her stern, repressed Puritan nature found no vent in useless weeping and lamentation. Instead, she projected a bold plan of escape; she remembered a married niece in the West, and she summoned her demoralized husband to assist her, at once, in packing up, announcing to him definitely that they would leave the Bay by the early morning train, while yet the town was asleep, and would accept the oft-repeated invitation to visit this niece.

This avenue of escape encouraged poor Captain Leander considerably, and the two worked with hopeful determination far into the night, packing trunks with their valuables and nailing up boxes to leave behind them.

No chance visitor or caller happened in to disturb their plan. Indeed, the whale was a sufficient guard against such intrusion; besides, a heavy storm was brewing. By midnight, when the two exhausted old people threw themselves down for a brief rest, the rain was beating fiercely against the house and the wind was blowing heavily from the southwest.

Early the next morning they arose and dressed themselves. The Captain moved about mechanically, as if in a dreadful dream. He obeyed Aunt Debby as though he had been a child. The excitement and anxiety of the past few days had been almost more than he could bear. His eyes were red and moist, and he passed his coat-sleeve over them frequently. As for Aunt Debby, she maintained a stoical demeanor, but her voice had a tenderer note in it, as she gave orders to the Captain, than he had observed for many a year. It was a dreadful revolution for them both, and only necessity could have driven them to it. However, it seemed to them both the only course open, to flee from the public wrath and leave the Board of Health to do as they pleased with the whale, and then to return, after the summer was over and the boarders gone.

A pitiable pair of aged fugitives they were as they issued stealthily from the rear door, in the gray dawn, and the Captain piled up the hand-cart with trunks and bundles. Presently all was ready; Aunt Debby locked the door and put the key defiantly into her pocket, and the two started for the station.

The rain had ceased and the wind had shifted to the northwest. As they came out into the road, the Captain glanced, from force of habit, over toward the bridge and toward the whale.

The handle of the cart dropped from his nerveless fingers, and two trunks rolled out upon the ground. But the Captain heeded them not. He stood speechless, at first with wonder and then with delight, as he gradually mastered the plain fact that the whale, that huge laboratory of evil odors, that immovable, indestructible monster which had defied all his efforts, well, it was gone!

"Gone! It's gone!" he exclaimed, in hoarse delight; and excitedly tried to embrace Aunt Debby then and there.

That excellent woman repulsed him with severity; then she showed an amount of emotion greater than at any time for thirty years. As she pushed her excited husband away her hand lingered a moment on his shoulder, almost with a caress, and she ejaculated:

"Wal, you pore tired critter! You're kinder shook up. Now let's go back into the house."

Back they went. They had seen at once how the high wind and a full-moon tide had combined to lift the body of the whale from its resting-place, and the shifting wind had blown it far out upon the bay, far from the sight of human eyes, far from the scent of human nostrils.

One reference, and one only, Aunt Debby made to the whale, as they hurriedly unpacked trunks and boxes.

"Lander," she observed, reflectively, "I'm sorry you left them sticks of dynamite inside of him. It's such a waste!"

## THE HAND ON THE PANE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY W. HERT FOSTER.

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LEANED forward and closely examined the window pane behind Jennison's chair. Something on the glass had attracted my wandering attention as I sat there idly drumming upon the chair arms and waiting for Jennison to return. It was the print of a hand—a small, slender hand—upon the otherwise clear window pane. It looked as though the warm flesh had but just been removed from contact with it. I passed my hand over the mark. It was not ground into the glass, for I could feel no roughness; yet it was indelible.

Jennison, coming back to his private office just then, saw what I was about. He uttered a little exclamation and quickly fitting a thin board over the pane, snapped the spring which held it in place. Evidently the pane, which

was directly behind the chair in which he usually sat, was seldom uncovered.

I glanced up interrogatively. His usually ruddy, jolly face had lost its color and was preternaturally grave. I was too much astonished to allow the incident to pass without comment.

"What is it, Jennison?" I asked.

"Nothing—it's nothing at all," he said, hastily.

"Nonsense! What is that mark?"

"The mark?" he repeated, vaguely.

"Yes, on the window pane? Who did it and how was it done?"

"So—so you see it, too, do you?" he asked, hesitatingly.

"I see it, too!" I repeated, in amazement.

"Why shouldn't I? Think I'm blind?"

"No, that's not it," he returned, slowly.

"But it's—well, it's of no consequence, it really isn't."

"Come, old man," I said. "Out with it. What's the mystery?"

He wet his lips (and I'm hanged if they weren't pale) before replying. "Why are you so sure there is a mystery?" he demanded. Then he added hastily: "I—I—well, of course, my boy, there is something strange about it. You say you saw a mark on the glass. What was it?"

"Ah, now you are getting down to facts," I said. "I saw the imprint of a hand—a woman's hand, I should say."

"So you did see it?" he repeated. "Yes, it's a woman's hand."

"Who put it there? Surely it isn't a chance imperfection in the glass. It is a perfect impression (or so I thought) of a very beautiful hand."

"Rogers," he said, slowly, "I had much rather not tell you. But if you insist—Do you remember the Sterlings, of Worcester?"

"Colonel Abram Sterling? Yes, I remember him," said I. "Let's see, wasn't his wife a Mason—daughter or niece of Judge Ellery Mason?"

"Niece. But she died twenty odd years ago—just after her daughter was born. The old colonel himself has been in his grave a decade."

"What became of the children—there was a boy and a girl, wasn't there? But pardon me for interrupting—"

"That's all right," said Jennison. "It's about the children I have to tell. They were left parentless, as I say, more than ten years ago. The colonel had watched over them as tenderly as a mother and they were indeed desolate. It was the worse for the boy, for he was a wild, harum-scarum lad of fourteen. The girl was eleven and one of the sweetest characters I ever met."

"If she was like her mother," said I, "she could be nothing else."

"True. And she was like her. The same kind of a spirituelle creature. I had the honor of being the colonel's legal adviser and saw a good deal of the children both before and after his death. The property was left in my care also, while Merritt and Louise were growing up. It had been better, perhaps, had the property continued in my guardianship, for as soon as Merritt obtained control of his he began to make ducks and drakes of it. The Lord only knows where the fellow got such vicious traits: it hasn't shown out in either the Sterlings or Masons for half a dozen generations. He was the black sheep of the family."

"Louise shielded him in his boyhood when he got into scrapes and she continued to have faith in him, as they grew older. You perhaps remember the Thorndykes, who lived next to the old colonel's? Yes, well, while they were children Louise had a willing assistant in her watchcare of Merritt in Tom Thorndyke—as manly a lad as ever stepped, Rogers. Tom and Louise were sweethearts almost from their cradles, and both the colonel and Tom's parents hoped to see the young people's liking for each other ripen into something more serious in time."

"And it did. The Thorndykes went to South America after Colonel Sterling died—Tom was sixteen, I believe, and Louise a year or so younger—and it was agreed between them that when Tom was established in business he would return for the girl. They plighted their troth when they were scarcely out of pinafores, yet they remained faithful to each other. It was the most idyllic match I ever heard of."

"They corresponded—Louise and Tom—very regularly, and I believe that Tom was the only living soul to whom the loyal girl ever betrayed any doubt as to Merritt's character. She continued to gloss over her brother's sins to those who knew him, and he—the ungrateful wretch—did not even thank her. He became as well known as any man about town, a frequenter of hotel bar-rooms and gambling clubs. His affairs with women—creatures of the most abandoned character—were innumerable and it was whispered that during one of his sprees he had married a low-born singer from one of the concert halls."

"These stories of course reached the ears of the gentle little sister, but she never betrayed the pain they gave her by word or look—that is, in Merritt's presence. But I knew it wore upon her so that her health was breaking down under the strain, and I wrote to Tom Thorndyke about it. They had already agreed that he was to come on and marry her on her twenty-first birthday. It had been my suggestion, for Merritt had made a fearful mess of his own share of the property, and I could not trust Louise a day with her share of her father's estate in her absolute possession. Merritt could wheedle almost anything he wished out of her, and I was determined to secure her from his machinations."

"Tom took my hint and one day, a few weeks after I had written, Louise came into my office with the happiest light on her face I had seen there in a long time."

"Tom is coming North sooner than he expected, Uncle," she said. (She had always called me 'uncle' from babyhood.) "He may be here at almost any time. He has already started, but will probably remain a few weeks in Havana on business for his firm."

"I showed nothing but surprise and pleasure at the idea of meeting the youngster again."

"He'll be quite a man now," said I, never for an instant letting on that I suspected why he was coming so early. It was yet four months to her birthday."

"Indeed, he will," said she, with innocent delight. "I don't suppose we shall know him. Perhaps he will have a beard!" and she laughed. It did me good to hear her! "You know, he's never sent me a photograph of himself since he went away."

"And I wonder if he'll know a certain little

girl, after six years," said I, slyly. "She was in short dresses and wore her hair down her back when Master Tom went away."

"She laughed and blushed. 'It will be quite like a fairy story, won't it?' she said."

"While we were waiting to hear from Tom, Louise and her brother were invited to New York State to join a house party for a week or ten days. Merritt was one of those fellows who never show their dissipation long at a time, and was handsome into the bargain. He was borne with, also, for his sister's sake; that was why society's doors were not closed against him."

"The house at which they visited was not far from New York City, but it was so far away from home that Louise thought none of Merritt's associates, or scandals, would follow him there. But there was one who did."

"Merritt had tired of the music hall singer and had thrown her over. The poor girl, ruined in character, unable to find employment at her old business and burdened with a three months' old child, grew desperate and followed Merritt to this country place, hoping to obtain some concessions, I suppose, by threatening to shame him before his fine friends. But Merritt Sterling was an ugly fellow when he was cornered. It stirred all the devil in him to be threatened."

"He met the girl in a lonely piece of wood some distance from his friend's house and their quarrel waxed fierce. Poor Louise came upon them unexpectedly—in time to see her brutal brother knock the unfortunate woman down and kick her. Before she could cry out, or run to beg Merritt to desist—before her presence was discovered even, by the other actors in the tragedy—a man burst through the bushes and came to the fallen creature's assistance."

"He was a young, athletic fellow, and at that moment his face was very stern indeed. 'What would you do, you dog?' he exclaimed, pushing the half-mad Merritt back from his victim."

"You will do murder yet!" "Merritt turned upon him with the foulest language. The stranger controlled himself admirably, but kept between the wretch and the girl. Finally Sterling drew a stiletto and sprang like a tiger upon the man who had stayed his hand!"

"And there, before the woman he had beaten and the sister whose presence was unsuspected, Merritt Sterling was shot down and instantly killed by his antagonist! It was self-defence—there was no other idea even suggested—but the man who had done the deed did not give himself up, nor could the police find him from the meager description given by the two horrified women."

"Louise was fairly prostrated by the awful incident. I called Tom Thorndyke at Havana, but it was a week before I received a reply. He replied that he had been in the interior on business and just returned to the coast, and was then taking the first steamer for New York. Of course, by the time he arrived, the funeral was over and the matter had quieted down to a great extent. There were few to mourn the death of Merritt Sterling."

"Louise got out again; but I saw that it was only the coming of Tom that kept her up. Her body and mind were both racked to the point of collapse by the terrible strain upon them. The physicians agreed with me that the best thing to do was to marry her to Tom immediately and for them to start for the South as soon as the ceremony took place. The association with people and places which reminded her of her brother's death must be broken at once."

"The day Tom was expected, she came to my office. They were to meet here—I had sent a telegram to New York for him to come directly to me on his arrival—and I knew to a minute, almost, the time he would arrive. I had planned to have an errand which would call me from the room just at the right moment, that Louise might meet him alone. She stood beside me here, one hand upon the back of my chair and gazing out of the window. I can imagine how she felt. I could do nothing myself but make a desperate bluff at reading the papers in a court case; but I did not see a line on the sheets that I rustled so industriously."

"Suddenly Louise uttered a low cry. She could not have seen Tom coming, I thought; in truth it would be past belief that she should know him after six years. Yet I sprang up to look myself. My God! the expression on the girl's face was of death. She stood as though stunned, one hand rigidly fixed upon my chair-back, the other against the window pane."

"Slowly her eyes turned from the window and sought the door of the office. I was so marvelously influenced by her manner and appearance that I could not break the spell. In a moment there was a bustle at the entrance and the door flew open."

"Mr. Thorndyke," said Upton's voice and the boy entered."

"Jennison," exclaimed he, hurrying forward, "I remember you." His voice was grave and his face sad and drawn. "Where is Louise?"

"He had seen her and his features lit up wonderfully. He stretched out his hand and approached her. 'Louise,' he said, 'do you remember me?'"

"She did not look at his face. Her eyes, strangely strained and glittering, were fixed upon that outstretched hand. Her lips moved; and for an instant I did not catch the words. Then I heard her tones, hoarse, unnatural, and sounding hollow and lifeless through the room."

"My brother's blood! My brother's blood!" "And then ere we could catch her, she fell stiffly to the floor. She was dead when we reached her."

"Great heavens, Jennison!" I cried, "do you mean that—?"

"Yes, Thorndyke was the man. He had come straight on from Rio Janeiro instead of

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remaining at Havana. Having some business to transact for his father in and near New York, he stopped there first. Chance—Fate—whatever you care to call it—brought him to that lonely wood at the moment Merritt Sterling was beating his victim. Thorndyke was on his way to catch a train at a way station. He went on after shooting the brute who was, to him, a stranger, and took the first train South, reaching Havana again in five days. He did not fear being tried for the murder, but he feared the effect it might have upon Louise.

"She had been unobserved by him at the time, but his image was indelibly impressed upon her memory. She recognized him immediately upon his appearance at my office and the awful discovery that her brother's slayer was her lover was like the stroke of another bullet through her own heart. I have never been able to remove the mark left by her hand upon that pane."

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## KATRINA.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY FRANK H. SWEET.

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NAMES were only a means of temporary identification at Dead Level Bar, and when a man so far forgot the place as to ornament himself with two and perhaps even three, merely because they happened to have been given or bequeathed, he was sternly thrust back to the reproach of "Soap or Bar's Grease" or "Comb an' Brush," or something else equally appropriate and distasteful. As among the Indians, there was a custom of

earning anything convenient until a man had earned the right to something distinctive and honorable. That was how tenderfoot "Cub" of six months before, was veteran Pistol Bill of to-day, and why pink-faced, swearing Bobby had become Blue-Blazes.

Dead Level Bar was attractive to strangers. Pay-dirt had been struck by the first comers, and pay-dirt had been the rule ever since. Two ounces a day was a fair average for a river-bottom man, but three ounces was better. And naturally it was the river-bottom mining that set labor rates for the ponderous crushers on the hillside.

It was high—preposterous—of course; but the mine owners did not complain, for every jar of their machinery turned three figures into their pockets. A day meant a competence, a week a fortune, and a month was something that made even the wildest visions gasp for breath.

So the unskilled dago, and the Chinaman, and shirk from Alabama, and the red-headed man from Cork, alike received their two ounces a day; while a moderately skilled laborer was in demand at twice and even thrice that sum. Occasionally a man came who was thoroughly conversant with mining machinery, or with analyzing or prospecting, and he was a Croesus who could command his own rules and his own time and his own reward. And yet the miners on the hillside were always short of help. New-comers preferred the possibility of three ounces a day to the certainty of two, and the skillful were generally visionary enough to dream of the vast wealth which every turn of their spade might disclose.

Among the arrivals one day was a blue-eyed, flaxen-haired German, who towered head and shoulders above his companions, and whose first act on alighting was to snatch a pail from the driver's seat and go in search of water for the horses.

"Day vass tirsty," he remarked, sentimentally, as he went from one to another, watching them carefully and giving water only as he thought judicious, and not as the panting animals craved. "In de German army we our horses vass looked after."

Then he stood back and gazed about curiously, his shoulders square and his right arm bent slightly at the elbow, as though the hand were resting upon the hilt of a sword. One of the mine owners paused on the opposite sidewalk and regarded him attentively. He, too, had a habit of carrying his arm in that position; and beside there were other things about the upright, soldierly figure which carried him back to certain years of his own in the German army.

An hour later the stranger was installed as the chief engineer of the Gold Bug, with a salary of fifty dollars a day; and with the understanding that he was to have the oversight of other mines, with a corresponding increase of compensation. The blue eyes of the German had grown big with wonder at the munificence of the salary; but the mine owner's had only narrowed and brightened. He knew that another man with this scientific giant's acquirements would have asked a hundred, and been given it without question.

In the books he was entered as Hans, because of the clerk's inability to understand the long, unpronounceable name he gave; but down in camp he was simply Cause, while the burly teamster he one day tossed twenty-feet into the river for beating a horse, became Effect.

Mails were of uncertain arrival at Dead Level Bar. Sometimes they came twice a month; sometimes only once in two months, and sometimes the appearance of road agents prevented them from coming at all. Hans had been there six weeks before a mail came in, and then it was another week before the clerk connected the letter whose address he could not decipher, with the engineer whose name he could not pronounce.

When the letter was brought to him Hans was sitting on a boulder outside the mine, his blue eyes fixed upon a distant point of the horizon with an expression of wistfulness and regret. Five minutes later he was in the superintendent's office.

"I gif my notice," he cried, his face glowing and his blue eyes radiant. "I take de stage in twenty minutes."

"Take—what in twenty minutes? Oh, you want more salary." The superintendent threw his feet into another chair and looked at him expectantly. "Well, how much? Will fifty per cent. increase do?"

"I tell you I take de stage," Hans reiterated. "I gif my notice."

His earnestness was too evident to be mistaken, and the superintendent rose hastily to his feet.

"Come, come, Hans," he expostulated, "think better of it. We'll pay you more than anybody else."

"It is not de pay," eagerly, "you no understand. You been goot to me, and I stay mit you longer as anybody. But now I vass go home—to Katrina. You see," as a slight smile appeared on the youthful face of the superintendent, "it's like dis. Dere vass t'ings tell about me, and Katrina hear dem, and she say to me 'Go!' Den I hear anoder man vass seek

her, and I come to America to forget. But no, dere vass no place to forget. When I come to de mountains I see Katrina everywhere, and I hear her voice mit de trees and when I dream. Now dis," holding the letter up and regarding it fondly, "tells me dat Katrina is waiting, and it say de lies mit me are all discover and dat de odder man is punish."

"I am glad to hear it, Hans," said the superintendent heartily, "but still I think you ought to remain with us. Why, just think of it, man; six months of this work and you can go back and build a castle for Katrina."

But Hans raised himself to his full height and looked down compassionately.

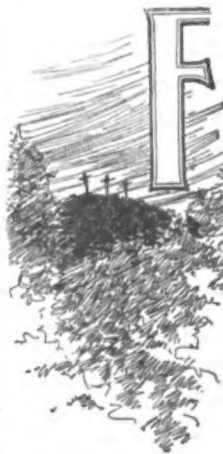
"You is young man," he said, "and do not understand dese t'ings. Gold is everywhere, all over de world; but dere is only one Katrina. I gif my notice now and go to destage. And I say goot-bye."

The superintendent watched him down the hillside and then turned to his desk with a sigh.

"I am a young man," he thought, bitterly, "but I do understand. I have already lost my Katrina."

## THE PASSION PLAY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



Far off in the mountains of Bavaria, in the little village of Oberammergau, there takes place each year a remarkable performance known as the Passion Play. The first of these performances took place over two hundred and fifty years ago. At that time a plague was afflicting the country, and the people of Oberammergau were among the sufferers. Nearly a hundred people had perished and the terror-stricken survivors vowed that if the plague were removed they would give a dramatic performance every ten years, illustrating the story of the life of Christ, and his sufferings, for the enlightenment of all mankind.

Strange as it may seem, the plague passed, and the villagers have ever since kept their vow faithfully. At the present time the fame of the Passion Play is world wide. People visit Oberammergau from all over the world to witness the wonderful performance of these simple villagers, who devote their lives to this performance, which with them is a most sacred duty. In the intervals between the plays they engage in their usual vocations, but as only inhabitants of the village are allowed to take part in the performance, and only those whose lives are comparatively blameless, it is considered a disgrace not to take part in the play, while on the other hand, to be permitted to take the part of Christ is the highest possible honor.

The last performance of the play was given in 1890, so the next one takes place next year, 1900.

Already the villagers are preparing for their parts. The leading character, of course, is that of Christ. This was taken in 1890 by Joseph Maier, who also represented Christ in 1870 and 1880. Of Maier's impersonation critics have had nothing to say but words of praise. It seems almost sacrilege for any man to attempt to represent Christ, but in Maier's impersonation there is nothing offensive; on the contrary, there is everything to love and to admire.

Maier is held in the greatest reverence by his fellow-villagers, and in his private life is a sensitive, refined, and modest man, leading a pure and blameless life and devoted to his work, his home and his family. He has had flattering offers from theatrical managers but will consider none of them, preferring the quiet and peace of his native village and his part in the Passion Play, which he regards as a most solemn religious duty.

Of the other characters it need only be said that they perform their parts ably and conscientiously, acting from a sense of religious duty, accepting their part as an honor, and with no thought of gain. This will be better understood when it is known that of the proceeds the actors receive only a sum equal to what they would have earned from equal time employed at their usual labor. The most of the money is spent for public improvements, and among other things, a school for wood-carving has been erected with this money.

The theater itself is a large wooden auditorium partially roofed over, and with a large stage, for in some of the scenes six hundred people take part. The air is mild and the play is too engrossing for the audience to mind an occasional shower, for the performance goes on rain or shine.

A cannon is fired as a signal that the drama is to begin, and the strains of the orchestra are heard in a solemn overture. The music as now performed was written by a former schoolmaster of the village, a man of remarkable musical ability, while the text was written in its present form by Father Daisenberger, a former priest of the village, who died in 1883. He also adapted some of the plays of Schiller for the use of his parishioners, and persuaded them to build an open-air theater, instead of giving their performances in the churchyard.

Through this good priest many of the incongruous features of the earlier performances were eliminated. For example, it used to be the custom for the devil and his imps to take part in the performance, appearing at intervals, and finally rushing upon Judas after the crucifixion of Christ. It was also customary in former days, just before the performance, for a messenger to rush upon the stage with a letter from the devil, urging the audience to make all the noise and disturbance possible, in order to interrupt the play, and promising them great rewards if they succeeded in so doing. But now these features have been omitted, and the play is consequently improved.

Eighteen acts and twenty-five tableaux, with chorus singing in the intervals, makes up in the Passion Play. The acts represent scenes in the life of Christ, beginning with his entry into Jerusalem, and portraying the events of his life until his resurrection. The tableaux are symbolic; scenes from the Old Testament which are considered prophetic or later events during the life of Christ.

The performance lasts all day and through it all the audience sit spellbound. The peasants from the country round regard the play as a sacred service, and will undergo any sacrifice to witness it. Others are sightseers who are powerfully affected by the vivid pictures and scenes, which are so real as to be positively painful. One sits through the play with heart-felt interest and feels at the end that he has been witnessing a real tragedy. What could more vividly bring to mind the life and sufferings of Christ than witnessing such a performance? Unimpressible indeed would be he who could sit unmoved through a performance of the Passion Play—who could leave without realizing more deeply and fully the meaning of the story of Christ.

In Germany there is an institution called "The Housewives' Union," which devotes itself to the servant girl question. It has places for the training of servants, and it gives prizes for good ones. A girl who stays five years in one place gets a gold pin with an inscription which states that she is a good servant; and after she has been ten years in the same family she gets ten marks, or \$2.50 in gold. At the end of twenty years she gets five dollars in gold, and if she remains with the same family thirty years at the close of this period she receives a present of thirty marks or six dollars in gold. It may be interesting to many to know that servants often remain thirty years with the same family in Germany. In this country it is the exception, and an exception very seldom found, that a servant will remain thirty years in one place. We greatly fear, too, that American servants would think \$2.50 for ten years of service, or six dollars for thirty years, a very small reward.

The great fire of London, which occurred in 1666, exceeded all previous fires in magnitude, although there had already been some severe ones in London. It followed closely on the Plague, by which, in 1665, the city lost nearly one fifth of its population, and caused extreme consternation, not only by the losses occasioned by it but by the universal feeling of the people that the city was doomed to destruction in some way. The fire started at one o'clock of the morning of September second and raged for five days. 396 acres of houses were totally destroyed and others partially so. In all, 400 streets, 13,200 houses, 88 churches, St Paul's Cathedral, and four city gates were either damaged or destroyed. The money loss was 4,000,000 pounds sterling.

## SAVE THE MEN

Women Now Have a Glorious Opportunity to Rescue Men From the Terrors of Drunkenness—a Secret Remedy given in Tea, Coffee or Food that Cures the Drunkard Without His Co-operation.

Free Trial Package of This Magnificent Cure Mailed Free to Every Lady who Writes—Do not Delay but Send at Once for the Free Trial and Test It.

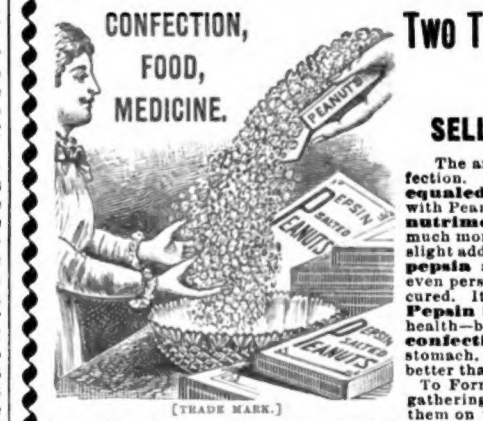
Who can doubt that there is a cure for drunkenness when we have such an eloquent and emphatic statement from Mrs. Katie Lynch, 329 Ellis St., San Francisco, Cal., she says:—My husband was a hard drinker. There never was a doubt in my mind but what liquor had so worked upon his nerves as to actually control his appetite. Like most men who drink he was kind and generous when sober, but the rum demon usually had the better of him and his wife had to suffer. One day I concluded to try a remedy called Golden Specific, which it was said would cure the liquor habit secretly. So I mixed some of it with Mr. Lynch's food for a few days and put a little in his coffee. I could scarcely conceal my agitation and fear lest he should suspicion me for he had suddenly taken a dislike to liquor, said he despised the stuff, and was the most remarkably changed man you ever saw. I kept bravely at it determined not to waver in any attempt to cure him and I soon found out that my mission was a complete success and that Golden Specific had wrought almost a miracle for me. I want other women to profit by my example and am glad to learn that Dr. Haines, who discovered Golden Specific, will generously send a free trial package to every woman who writes for it.

Send your name and address to Dr. J. W. Haines, 385 Glen Blk., Cincinnati, Ohio, and if you wish you are at liberty to refer to me as having told you about this marvelous remedy.



MRS. KATIE LYNCH. A few days and put a little in his coffee. I could scarcely conceal my agitation and fear lest he should suspicion me for he had suddenly taken a dislike to liquor, said he despised the stuff, and was the most remarkably changed man you ever saw. I kept bravely at it determined not to waver in any attempt to cure him and I soon found out that my mission was a complete success and that Golden Specific had wrought almost a miracle for me. I want other women to profit by my example and am glad to learn that Dr. Haines, who discovered Golden Specific, will generously send a free trial package to every woman who writes for it.

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both old and young, now wants a few in the pocket at all times to nibble on—for with all the troublesome oils properly treated as they are in our special process of Curing and Roasting Peanuts, they have at last lost all terrors to weak stomachs, and are warranted not to become rancid, and to keep well in any climate. We will send two thousand packages of these Pepsin Salted Peanuts out to respond to the demand for them. To get a watch, a guaranteed good timekeeper. But to first introduce them quickly we send one package as a sample free to any one enclosing six cents for a three months' subscription to COMFORT. You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. No attention paid to first orders without trial or subscription. Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages. Address, COMFORT FOOD DEPT C, Augusta, Maine.



**5000 BICYCLES**  
Overstock. Must be closed out. Standard '99 Models guaranteed, \$10 to \$25. '98 & '97 models \$8 to \$15. Shopworn and second hand wheels, good machines, \$3 to \$10. Great Factory Clearing Sale. We ship anywhere, to any one, on approval and trial without a cent in advance.

**EARN A BICYCLE** by helping us advertise our superb wheels. Easy work and sure reward on our new plan. We will give one Rider Agent in each town FREE USE of Sample Wheel to introduce them. Write at Once for Great Offer. B. O. MEAD CYCLE CO., Chicago, Ill.

## Boys &amp; Girls

We are giving away Watches, Cameras, Solid Gold Rings, Sporting Goods, Musical Instruments & many other valuable premiums to boys & girls for selling 18 packages of Royal English Ink Powder at 10c. each. Every package makes 50c. worth of fine ink. We ask no money—send your name and address & we will forward you 18 packages with premium list and full instructions. When you sell the Ink Powder send the money to us and select your premium. This is an honest offer. We trust you. Don't lose this grand opportunity. Write for the outfit today. Address all orders to IMPERIAL INK CONCERN, 22 Adams St. Oak Park, Ill.

**AGENTS wanted to sell**  
Our Pinless Clothes Line.  
A Perfect Line that requires no pins and will not break. Sold only to Agents. PINLESS CLOTHES LINE CO., 100 B Beacon St., Worcester, Mass. Sample mailed for 50c.

**A PRESENT FOR YOU**  
This magnificent 14 K. is given free for selling among your friends at 10c. and address and we will send you a beautiful watch. The popular Curb Link, five, both in pattern and style engraved and chased, and opens with a very fine spring. The Sterling Silver Laid Bracelet please state so when ordering. The Sterling Silver Laid Bracelet is considered very stylish. We give every man or woman a Solid Gold-laid Bracelet which we will buy back for \$5.00 if not as represented. It is solid gold pattern and unswerving for beauty and durability. Remember, we give it free for disposing of 20 cases of our Perfumery at 50c. per case. W. B. SHERBORN, Box 150, New York.

**PLAYS**  
Dialogues, Speakers for School, Club and Parlor. Catalogue free. T. S. DENISON, Publisher, Chicago, Ill.

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**MAGIC DIP NEEDLE** for locating Hidden Treasures. Circulars and testimonials free. P. & M. AGENCY, Palmyra, Pa.

**A \$25.00 WATCH** in appearance, the most beautiful ever manufactured. Double hunting case, stem wind and stem set, superbly engraved. Standard American ruby jeweled movement absolutely guaranteed for 20 YEARS. Cut this out and send it to us with your name and address and we will send the watch to you by express for examination; you examine it at the express office and if as represented pay express agent our special price of \$5.00 and it is yours. Only one watch to each customer at this price. Mention in your letter whether you want to work on salary at \$50 or \$100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. G. I. OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

**A BIG OFFER** 50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will send us a P. O. or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at \$50 or \$100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. G. I. OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

**PEARL AND GILT Initial Stick Pins.**

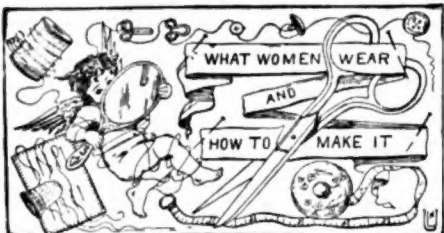
New ideas in stick pins make them more popular than ever. We have just secured a novelty in these pearl and gold plated initial stick pins. It is a glad hand that holds the pure white pearl heart with the gilt initial securely fastened to it. The effect of the combination is very beautiful and we know after you once get one that many others who see them will order at once. These are really a 25c. article, but to introduce we will send samples, any initial desired, free to all who send us 10c. for a trial six months' subscription to SUNSHINE, the monthly that is needed in every home. If you want three stick pins all one initial or different send us 25c. for a year's subscription and get three of these popular stick pins, they are for Gents' or Ladies' use. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

**Two Thousand Packages Shelled Peanuts SENT FREE.**

**SELL 12 PACKAGES AND GET A WATCH.**

The art of shelling and salting peanuts has just reached perfection. As a confection they are peerless, as a food equally so. German scientists have spent years experimenting with Peanut flour. It is found to contain three times the nutrient of wheat; and whole salted peanuts, being so much more palatable than wheat, have also been found with a slight addition of Pepsin Salt to be a sure cure for Dyspepsia and other stomach, kidney and liver troubles. Yes, even persons with Bright's Disease or Diabetes can now be cured. It is only necessary for old or young to eat a few of our Pepsin Salted Peanuts after meals to keep in perfect health—but they can also be eaten in any quantity as a confection without the least distress or trouble to the weakest stomach. Children delight to feast on them and they are much better than candy. They also cure Heart Burn and Indigestion. To Form Part of the Treat or Refreshments at party gatherings, sociables, etc., they are indispensable, and to have them on the table as dessert is the best of form. Everyone, both old and young, now wants a few in the pocket at all times to nibble on—for with all the troublesome oils properly treated as they are in our special process of Curing and Roasting Peanuts, they have at last lost all terrors to weak stomachs, and are warranted not to become rancid, and to keep well in any climate. We will send two thousand packages of these Pepsin Salted Peanuts out to respond to the demand for them. To get a watch, a guaranteed good timekeeper. But to first introduce them quickly we send one package as a sample free to any one enclosing six cents for a three months' subscription to COMFORT. You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. No attention paid to first orders without trial or subscription. Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages. Address, COMFORT FOOD DEPT C, Augusta, Maine.





WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



**M**ID-SUMMER fabrics are supremely fascinating, to my mind, more so than has been the case for several seasons. One of the foremost of these numerous lovely stuffs is berege; not the old-fashioned material long ago known by that name, but a clever cross between crepe and berege, rendering it (so modistes testify), much more durable, and less likely to crack, or tear in slits.

Crepe de chine are also very much in vogue, as are nun's veilings, silky cashmeres, etc. A most fetching gown built of berege in the softest, palest shade of tan has its skirt cut circular, and intersected with dainty lace insertions and applique of yellow Honiton. This is set over a skirt of silvery green taffeta finished at the foot by a 3-inch plaiting. The round bodice is accented by a belt, with broad bands of the lace extending into the belt from the shoulder seams. Finishing touches of black velvet ribbon at the throat and belt complete a most airy, yet serviceable costume for a warm summer afternoon.

Another pretty frock, somewhat similarly built, is of palest smoke gray nun's veiling, the sheath skirt having a tunic effect by means of applied bands of yellow Honiton lace over white satin; bordering this at the foot are alternate frills of the gray, and white taffeta set very closely together giving a most frothy finish. The bodice has a softly pleated vest bordered by bands of the lace edged over the shoulders with pleatings matching those used on the skirt. The sleeves are a unique feature, wrinkled across the arm with a pleated frill at both elbow and wrist.

Among pique gowns there are a number of smart new models, an attractive one being shown here, the sheath skirt trimmed with broad straps, so set on as to represent a tunic. The natty little eon coat has a like trimming, giving much jauntiness to the figure, while the fronts are a trifle longer, and are finished by a rolling collar and revers edged with narrower straps. With it is worn a shirt waist of white spotted with scarlet, set off at the throat with a scarf of Roman silk in which scarlet predominates, fastened at the front by a silver clasp.

For the "bike" maiden there is little to offer that is entirely new, and still the sketch offered in our initial, has attractive points to recom-

The shirt waist, which is an entirely new model, is made up of white pique. The yoke fancifully decorated with straps and stiff little tucks.

Very brilliant are the colorings of some of the new waists, being broadly striped or spotted, the stripes running up and down.

A smart addition to the summer tailor gown is the Admiral collar, made quite separate from the coat, but carefully cut so as to fit exactly, often forming a vest at the front when the coat is worn open. They are made of heavy, creamy white Kersey, beautifully braided with gold, or entirely plain, while very pretty ones are entirely of scarlet stock. Serviceable ones of shrunken white pique are considered *au fait*. All shirt waist materials should be well shrunken before being made up. Point de' sprit makes the daintiest sort of frills for my little lady's best white gown, especially if the material used be thin stuff.



A NATTY ETON JACKET.

A stylish hat to be worn with tailor gowns is a square-crowned sailor, with a narrow, rolling brim bound with black velvet, the crown encircled with a broad band of the same, finished at the side with an upstanding bow set off by a couple of black quills. A similar hat has a scarf of gray and white striped silk, draped about the crown, with a soft knot at the side in which are inserted a couple of gray wings. Both are exceedingly good style. A pretty way to renovate last season's sailor hats, if they happen to be white straw, is to trim them with a band of black velvet and clusters of black wings, arranged at each side of the front, with perhaps a little black tulle or net to soften the effect. The frenzy for hats flared off the face has almost entirely subsided, the far more comfortable fashion of wearing the hat well over the face being popular to a degree.

A modish finish for the neck, with a linen collar, is a broad ribbon brought around the throat and fastened in the front by a silver clasp. They are shown in the shops in a variety of styles, and are wonderfully reasonable in price.

The newest thing in face veils shows dots of chenille, nearly as large as a ten cent silver piece, set quite a space apart.

A new and most comfortable fancy is to finish the skirt of a tailor-made gown with a stitched belt of velvet, fastened to the skirt all ready to adjust at a moment's notice.

Leather belts are being pushed into the background by those of ribbon belting, the latter being far more pliable and yielding to the figure, hence more becoming, a fact quickly discovered by the fair sex.

## THE LATEST POPULAR SONGS.

Cost in single copies at least 40 cents each; but we have a book of one hundred and fifty-six popular songs sentimental, pathetic and comic with words and music complete which we will send to any friend who will send six cents to pay mailing expenses and our illustrated catalogue of latest bargains.

S. W. LANE &amp; Co., Augusta, Maine.

## Tailor Made Suit \$4.98

Silk Lined Jacket.

ALL WOOL MATERIAL

Jacket elegantly silk lined, skirt superbly finished; made from Dutil's Celebrated Fast Color All-wool Fine Twilled Ladies' Cloth; equal every way to others \$10 Suits. Choice of electric blue, navy blue or black color.

**SEND NO MONEY** but send this ad. with color desired; give bust and waist measure, length of skirt (down front) from skirtband to bottom and we'll send the suit by express C.O.D. and allow you to try it on before you pay a cent. If found just as represented, a perfect fit and worth every penny of \$10.00, then pay the express agent \$4.98 and expressage. Pay nothing if unsatisfactory.

**THE SUIT** is made by expert men tailors over designs drawn by that king of ladies' tailors, M. LaRochelle, from Dutil's Best All Wool Fast Color Ladies' Cloth, famous everywhere for its rich soft bloom and beautiful appearance.

The Jacket is made in latest single-breasted style, with tight-fitting back and new fashionable sleeves, it is superbly trimmed with fine satin bands, artistically double silk-stitched and elaborately lined with real French silk of beautiful colorings and exquisite designs. The skirt is splendidly lined, has new fan back, nobly welted seams, is four yards wide and hangs gracefully and stylishly; from start to finish the suit's tailor-made and worth fully \$10.00.

Write for our Big Free Bargain Catalogue of other Suits, Skirts, Capes, Jackets, etc.

THE LOUIS H. THERON CO., 155-157 W. Jackson St., Chicago, Ill. Please mention COMFORT when you write.

## A Beautiful Solid Gold Filled Watch

Stem wind, stem set, beautifully engraved, with a genuine American movement, warranted for two years.

### AS A PRESENT TO YOU

for a few minutes' work. All we ask is that you sell for us to your friends and neighbors 100 of our famous LADY BEAUTY PINS, at 5 cents each (regular price, 10 cents). They have only to be shown to sell—every lady and girl in the land needs several.

**SEND NO MONEY—WE TRUST YOU.**

If you would like to have the watch, just send us your name and address, saying that you will sell the pins or return them, and we will forward them AT ONCE. We are selling a million a month of these pins, and everybody is more than pleased with them. This watch is the best ever offered, and is easily earned on account of the small amount to be sold—others are asking sales of \$50 for same watch. Send in your name to-day. Don't wait.

We have other premiums for smaller sales. You get our beautiful premium list with the goods. If you don't sell them all, you get a premium for what you do sell. The publisher of this paper will vouch for our reliability. Be sure to write us to-day.

**LADIES PIN CO., 804 SCHILLER BLDG., CHICAGO.**

## SOME SUPERSTITIONS ABOUT DIAMONDS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



**L**OOKING through some old volumes recently, I came upon one which gave what was at that time I suppose, a most learned discourse on the subject of diamonds. Some of the statements made would cause a modern scientist to smile, but then, perhaps in the course of a few hundred years our descendants will think our assertions as ridiculous.

In the first place, we have the growth of the diamond. "They are found in a mass that cometh out of gold, and when the mass is broken open some are found as great as peas. They are commonly found upon the rocks in the sea and upon hills where a mine of gold is. They have children which grow larger and larger year by year, and are nourished by dew from heaven. If they are taken with a little of the rock on which they are found, and kept wet with dew, they may be made to grow, and the small diamond becomes great."

Here are some of its virtues. The owner of a diamond according to this account, is lucky indeed. "The diamond should be worn upon

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7.)

## A PURE ALUMINUM PENCIL. FROSTED SILVER FINISH.

A beautiful automatic pocket pencil made of pure aluminum, the lightest, toughest and longest wearing metal in existence. Looks like frosted silver and will wear for five years, has rubber on end and movable lead. Makes a handsome present and is rich and distinguished looking when taken from pocket or desk. Will send one free if you will immediately send seven cents for mailing charges and a trial three months' subscription to GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

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**\$2.45** buys a MAPLE AND BABY CARRIAGE. 32 page Catalogue Free. We Pay Freight and ship on 10 days trial. No money required in advance. Address VICTOR MANUFACTURING CO., Dept. H 21, 295 and 297 Fifth Ave., Chicago, Ill.

## GUITAR VIOLIN, MANDOLIN BANJO for a stamp. E. C. HOWE, 617 Bay State Bldg. Chicago.

**\$75** Month and Expenses; no experience needed; position permanent; self-seller. PEASE MFG. CO., Station 32 Cincinnati, O.

## PAT'D QUAKER FOLDING VAPOR BATH CABINET

**\$24,000 SOLD.** Every home should have one for bathing purposes. It opens the pores of the skin, forces out the poisons which cause disease. Makes you clean, vigorous and healthy. Prevents disease. Provides Turkish hot air and medicated baths at home, 30, each. Beautifies complexion. Recommended by best physicians. Without drugs it cures colds, rheumatism, lagrippe, neuralgia, obesity, female ill, all blood, skin, nerve and kidney troubles. Guaranteed. Our new 50¢ style has a rubber-lined, folds small. Weight 5 lbs. Price complete \$5.00. Write us. Valuable book, etc., free. Agents wanted, men and women. \$100.00 a month and expenses. Address E. WORLD MFG. CO., Cincinnati, Ohio. We recommend the above firm as reliable.—Editor.

## \$5.00 SHAVING SET FREE

for selling only six of our Electric Porous Plasters. To prove there is a sure prevention and cure for La Grippe, Coughs, Colds, Rheumatism, etc., etc., and will send you six of our 26 Plasters which you are to sell and return the money (\$1.50) to us and we will send you all charges paid, the elegant Shaving Set packed in a case eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Shave Swedish Razor, single value, \$3.00; 1 Genuine, Horseshoe, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickle-hung, Ebonized handle Razor Strop, value \$1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand \$5.00 combination. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency use. Every Woman should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman. Don't wait but send to-day for Plasters. One agent sold the six in six minutes. Address THE G. O. PLASTER CO., Box 1229, Augusta, Maine.

## FEEL YOUR PULSE



Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased, and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are only one symptom, and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:—

## Symptoms of Heart Trouble.

Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep, Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Drowsy, Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs), Neuralgia Around the Heart. Persons having even one of these symptoms should not delay treatment a single day.

**Medicine Free to All.** If you have been treating your- self for stomach, lung, kidney or nervous disease, and have failed to find a cure, the chances are 9 in 10 that your trouble is in your heart. Hundreds of such cases are found every year. I want you to send me your name and address at once, so I can send to you for trial a box of my celebrated Heart Tablets absolutely free of charge, by mail, prepaid. Don't fail to write me if you have a single one of the above symptoms. I can cure you beyond any question, and will send the free tablets to prove it to you personally. Delays are dangerous. Inclose stamp for postage.

Address DR. AUSTIN ALBRO, Box 982 Augusta, Maine.



## CUT GLASS, SILVER TOP CREAM PITCHER FREE.

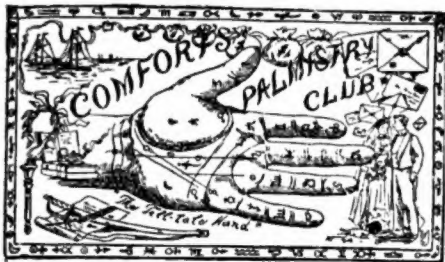
This refined Cut Glass finish Cream Pitcher is like crystal diamonds in its sparkling beauty; and is just a neat handy size for table creamer. Its pattern is the latest thing in style, and having a Quadruple Silver Plated Rim to top it out makes it as dainty as it is chaste and beautiful. Heretofore anything in cut glass has been so very expensive that the price has prevented its general use. By the invention of special new machinery the high cost has been largely overcome and we can now present a premium of genuine worth to be given free for a few minutes' work. This cream pitcher with its dainty silver topped rim is pretty enough to grace any table and it will give a fine effect and make a good setting to the rest of one's table fittings. It should sell for 67¢, but we will send it free, all charges paid, for a club of two yearly subscribers at 25¢ each or send 33¢ for a year's subscription and we will send the creamer to you free. Address

GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

OF GRAY NUN'S VEILING.

mend it. The skirt, which is much more clinging than that of last season, is made up of doublefaced material; the right side, a dull dust color, the under side, a large plaid in shades of brown in which white is largely introduced. The hem is turned up on the outside, showing the plaid, and finished at the top with several rows of stitching.





CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

**I** REGRET to say that many of the COMFORT readers who desire their hands read in this department are very careless about sending their impressions properly marked so that they can be connected with their letters. Some hands come to me with nothing on them to tell where they come from or to whom they belong; then again letters come saying that hands have been sent, but not giving any clue by which we can find their hands even if they had been received at this office. It is much the safest way to enclose the hands and the letters in the same wrapper and pay full postage on them as then we are not likely to lose them. Where they come separately they do not always reach us and as I said it is often impossible to connect the impressions with the right letters.

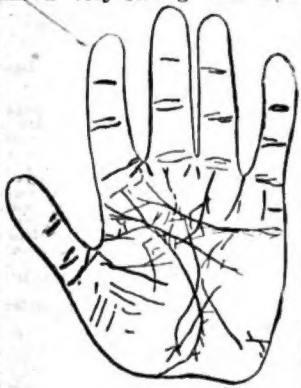
If the lady who wrote from Sioux City with regard to "Lygia's" hand will send a new impression and mention what she writes about in her letter of Feb. 16th, I will give it a new reading. We also had a letter from a lady in Chalk Mound, Kan., stating that she has sent hands and complying with the necessary conditions for reading. The hands have never been received. If she will forward them again, I will hold her letter. Also the lady from Portland, Oregon, signing "M. A." has never had her reading because her hands have not been received. If these can be attended to by the writers, I shall be glad to do my part towards them.

"Scholar" has sent a plaster cast of only the palm of his hand. As I have often said, it is necessary to see the size and shape of the entire hand, the relative size and condition of the fingers and both the right and left hand impressions in order to give an accurate reading; however, as he asks for a reading of these lines, I will do my best with it.

"Scholar" has a long life and will see many changes. His health in childhood was delicate, and although he was very ambitious he was often hindered from accomplishing what he desired on account of his delicate health. A strange influence

at work in this life. At about the age of forty a line arises from the life line going to the Mount of Apollo which contains an island. If this is shown in both hands it would indicate that this person is connected with some scandal at that age which would affect his reputation. There are many lines which droop from the life line after the age of fifty, indicating various troubles which I should say might come from poor health and loss of friends, rather than from poverty, as the line on Apollo indicates wealth. There is a very strong fate line indicating great success and although the hand is very hollow I think a successful career with gratified ambitions and wealth will come. Some very strong friendship formed in childhood follows at a distance through life, although somewhat removed from this person. A love affair in early life also results in disappointment. I should think, however, that a successful marriage took place not far from the age of forty. This is a very interesting hand, although as I have said, it is impossible to give definitely the positive happenings.

"B. Hunt" has sent a variety of good impressions. He has a strongly-marked hand which indicates good business talent and, in the main, good business judgment. He is, however, a little too much afraid to venture; when he feels that a certain venture would be a good one, he does not always have the courage to carry it out. He is developing this sort of courage and that will result in financial success. He makes his own way in the world, although he is somewhat helped by outside influences. He has a very strong will and much tact in dealing with others. He will have his own way in most things, but knows how to get it without antagonizing people. His health after the age of twenty is good up to old age. He has some interferences in his business career and will have to make a hard fight from thirty to fifty, but he will succeed owing to his now force of character in whatever he undertakes. He has an uncommon force and power over others. A clear head, good judgment and charity for the failings of others will help him in many a tight place. He is a very ambitious man and will succeed in fulfilling his ambitions, although the best of his success will not come until he is about forty-five to fifty. After that, riches and comfort will be his. He is preserved from some illness or other calamity during the ages of twenty-five to thirty-five and will marry at about the age of thirty-five or forty. I see but one marriage here. In this, as in other things, he will use good judgment, will be faithful and true and affectionate, but will never be carried off his feet by passion as some men are. There will be some strong influence come into his life at about the age of fifty which will affect it very favorably thereafter. He will travel dur-

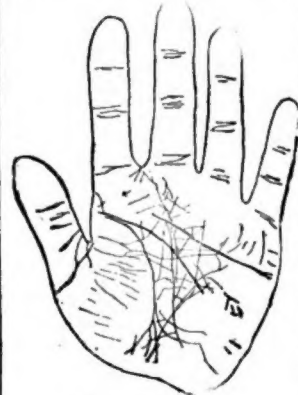


"B. HUNT."

ing the latter part of his life and I think will die in a foreign land. He has the gift of oratory and will succeed as a lawyer or in any career where his persuasive powers have full play. He must not be discouraged if he meets with some obstacles to financial success during the early part of his career, as he has an uncommonly favorable hand with exceptionally good results after he is fifty. He has perseverance and good courage which will help him to work and achieve definite results. I see no signs of bad luck in his hand but a steady growth from beginning to end.

"Mrs. J. J. R." does not give me a nom de plume and therefore I must use the initials to her name which was sent in December. She asks for a special reading to be sent by mail. Several people have asked this, but the conditions are that they shall be read in the paper for the benefit of all.

"Mrs. J. J. R." has had a great deal of trouble. Her childhood was not only troubled with delicate health, but she was in some way bound and subjected to others in a way which hindered her happiness. She was married young, and I should say made a rather sudden match which has not proved happy. Several great griefs have come to her through it and a period of some fifteen years or more she has seen or will see a good deal of trouble. I do not think she has had any children, at least she ought not to have had. After the age of forty-five, when a new influence comes into her life,



"MRS. J. J. R."

however, she will find things much smoother and more comfortable. I think she will marry again at that age. If not, some strong friendship comes into her life then, which will materially help her the rest of her days. She needs to be very careful of her health from fifty to sixty as there is some danger of a severe illness at that time. She will live on after that to a good old age and during the latter part of her life will travel somewhat and see more enjoyment than she has done, although her own temperament is rather against her really enjoying life at any time as some people do. She is naturally of a melancholy disposition and very easily swayed by others. She imagines a great many things which never happen and magnifies the troubles that do befall her. She should cultivate a more cheerful outlook of life. She is preserved from some really great trouble or illness, during the middle of her life as is shown by a square in the center of her hand. She has a good deal of tact in dealing with other people and is square and upright in her life. She is not particularly fond of the other sex, but is a true wife to the man she has married. Her nervous temperament is perhaps her worst enemy and if she will strive to overcome this and refuse to look on the dark side of life, she will find this world a much more cheerful place.

It is much better to have the fate-line broken and interrupted at the beginning or lower end, than to have it so at the upper end, as the latter indicates the closing years of life and if they are to be successful the lines should be clear and strong, or helped out by other lines at that age. If the line is strong and irregular in a hand that is much cut up by lines and cross rays it indicates an irritable temper. A long fate line reaching up to the middle finger indicates a long life and even helps out a short life line. A cross on this line indicates a change of prospects at the age indicated by its position on the line. A star at the base of this line denotes a loss of fortune in early youth. An island on this line shows conjugal infidelity in a bad hand, or a hopeless love in a good hand.

Digitus

## A CASE OF PERFUMERY FOR YOU.

We have a great quantity of perfumery in cases which we wish to give to our friends without expense. It is most delicate and lasting and combines the various perfumes and fragrance of the flowers. Placed in a bureau drawer will impart delicious odor to all clothing, kerchiefs, etc. Sweeter than the mignonne. Send us four cents pay for shipping expenses and will send it with copy of our illustrated bargain book.

S. W. LANE &amp; Co., Augusta, Maine.

Carrier pigeons in China are protected from birds of prey by a little apparatus consisting of three bamboo tubes fastened to the birds' bodies with thread passed beneath the wings. As the bird flies, the air rushes through these tubes, making a shrill whistling sound that keeps the birds of prey at a distance.

## CURES Tobacco Habit FREE!

Anyone Can Have a Trial Package by Sending Name and Address.

A new remedy has been discovered that is odorless and tasteless, can be mixed with coffee or food, and when taken into the system a man cannot use tobacco in any form. The remedy contains nothing that could possibly do injury. It is simply an antidote for the poisons of tobacco and takes nicotine out of the system. It will cure even the confirmed cigarette fiend and is a God-send to mothers who have growing boys addicted to the smoking of cigarettes. A free trial package of the remedy will be mailed prepaid upon application to Rogers Drug & Chemical Co., 481 Glenn Building, Cincinnati, Ohio. This will help any woman to solve the problem of curing her husband, son, or brother of a habit that undermines the health, leaving the body susceptible to numerous lingering and dangerous diseases.

# WASTING AND WEARING AWAY.

Weak Lunged People Have Poor Blood, Pale Cheeks, Thin Bodies, Irritable, Touchy Nerves and Little Or No Appetite.

## THE SLOCUM SYSTEM MAKES FLESH.

A New System of Scientific Treatment for Sick People Which Makes Them Strong by Natural Methods.

## WRITE FOR FREE TREATMENT.

There is only one way to be well and that is to make yourself well.

If you are weak and know WHERE, you can build up that portion of your body and become STRONG and WELL by the RIGHT TREATMENT.

When your sickness is due to weak lungs, poorly aerated blood, the right treatment is the Slocum System.

The proof of it is the fact that in the past year nearly A MILLION dollars worth of the Slocum System Remedies have been used by the people of America.

Dr. Slocum, the eminent specialist in lung diseases, after long study of the bacteria which feed on and destroy the lung substance, discovered a remedy which would kill the bacteria, and incorporated it with a wonderful FOOD that BUILDS UP tissue.

In addition to this preparation, the system consists of three others, all of which taken together, go to make up a complete treatment for weak, worn-out, sick men and women, and, particularly those who are subject during cold weather to coughs and colds.

The Slocum System is a specific for Consumption, because it destroys the bacteria and builds fat.

No consumptive can die of his disease while GAINING IN WEIGHT.

The Slocum System RESTORES STRENGTH, builds flesh and muscle, purifies the blood, clears the complexion, regenerates the entire system.

TO OBTAIN A FREE TRIAL of its wonderful efficacy for all weaknesses, simply write to Dr. T. A. Slocum, 98 Pine Street, New York, mentioning COMFORT when FOUR FREE PACKAGES of the Slocum Preparations, forming a complete course of Treatment, will be sent you, with full directions for use in any case.



## SOME SUPERSTITIONS ABOUT DIAMONDS.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6.)

the left side, for it is of greater virtue there, for the strength of its growing is towards the north, that is the left side of the world, and the left part of man, when he turneth his face toward the east. He who carries a diamond will have strength and manhood; it will keep him from harm, especially from broken limbs. It will give him victory over all his enemies, if his cause is righteous. It will keep him from strife and riots, and is a talisman against enchantments. In fact if an enchanter tries to work a spell upon the possessor of a diamond, he will find it will work upon himself instead. No wild beast will attack the diamond's owner. It heals all manner of mental troubles. If poison be brought near it, the diamond will become moist and sweat.

"In order to be of the greatest virtue, the diamond must be given freely instead of being bought."

Here, according to our authority, is the way to detect genuine diamonds. First cut with them or write on crystal. Then take a piece of adamant, or lode stone and a compass. If the diamond is genuine the compass will not be affected by the lode stone while the diamond is near.

Sometimes, through the misbehavior of its owner, the diamond loses its virtue and then we suppose the owner must either reform or give his diamond to some better owner.

The average weight of an American man is one hundred forty-one and one-half pounds; of a woman one hundred twenty-four and one-half.

## A POCKET LUXURY

Is a tortoise shell comb in a neat and fancy case, always handy and useful; good for men, women, school children and the soldiers. We will send one with our great catalogue of thousands of bargains for only six cents. Address, Comfort, Augusta, Maine.

## AN ART GIFT FOR THE HOME.

There is nothing about a home as necessary as a fine duster. This picture shows the new All Wool Duster. Neat and convenient and so soft and clean that the daintiest article may be dusted with it without danger of scratching or scarring. Removes all dust without effort. Every duster may be hung in parlor where they make nice ornaments. Assorted Art Colors with highly finished wood handle firmly secured with Bright Aluminum Ferrule, that never tarnishes or grows dull. Will last for years and always just the handiest thing a woman can have in the house, or a man in the store or office. Make delightful presents for your friends as a gift or souvenir. Agents will find them the best selling article in the market. Special terms for those who wish to sell. A GREAT OFFER FOR ALL. We will send one sample All Wool Duster free to any person who will send twelve cents for a trial three months' subscription to our great family paper. The best offer ever made. Address

GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

## WATCH AND CHAIN FOR ONE DAY'S WORK.

Boys and Girls can get a Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm for selling 15 doz. Packages of Blaine at 10 cents each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Blaine, post-paid, and a large Premium List. No money required. BLUINE CO. Box 312 Concord Junction, Mass.

## EASILY EARNED

Men's and Women's High Grade Bicycles, Watches, Sewing Machines, Furniture, Cameras, Mandolins, Shoes, Tea Sets, Guns, etc., etc., can be earned by a few hours work introducing our high grade Toilet Soaps among your friends and neighbors. No money required. We trust you. Write for our handsome illustrated catalog of over 100 premiums and full information at once. Address BULLOCK, WARD & CO. 330-332 Dearborn St., CHICAGO, ILL.

## FREE TO AGENTS

NEW IDEAL CAKE SPOON will stir Cake or mix Bread in 15 mins. Used in 1000 ways. Sells for 15 cts. Regular mortgage raiser for agents. Big Profits. Send 10 cts. for postage and Catalog of Aluminum, Silverware, etc. A. VINING NOVELTY WORKS, 60 Wabash Av., Chicago.

## FREE Clock For You.

We have one thousand of these Seth Thomas style Nickel clocks which are guaranteed the best of timers. They will be given away to our subscribers as follows: Send a club of only four yearly subscribers at 25c. each, one dollar in all, and we will forward one of these elegant clocks all charges paid. This is an unheard of chance to get a good reliable timepiece for nothing. Send a club of eight subscribers and we will send two clocks free. Our monthly is the best published at this low price. Address National Farmer, Augusta, Maine.



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Or Exceeding 15 Millions A Year.

The month of roses and "Announcements" and weddings. All topics for suggestive moralizing but the spirit of June is too optimistic. Let us forget December and revel in the "A"

June. "Then if ever come perfect days." There is an invitation in the sky, the air, the earth, the sea. They say so unmistakably, "Won't you come out and play" that he who lingers must be deaf indeed.

The world now has a chance to wag on carelessly, merrily, without any analysis of things as they are or prophecies of things as they "ought to be." In other words the woman's clubs have shut up shop, drank their last cup of tea, read their last paper and subsided for two months into the great mass of femininity that never has any definite purpose. Even "Queen Lavinia" has wrapped her crown and scepter up in moth balls and gone fishing. The greatest relief is not to the world that escapes being taken seriously for two months, but to the poor purposeful women who are given a chance to forget themselves for the same time. "Silence like a poultice comes to heal the blows of sound."

There is an occasional striking illustration of the old proverb "the mills of the gods grind slowly but they grind exceeding small." Poor old Roger Williams, who vanished from Massachusetts in 1635, at last is in a fair way to have justice done him. The legislature of Massachusetts has been humbly petitioned to revoke the sentence of banishment. It is urged upon them that one man in those far off times felt the injustice of the act. John Winthrop, the old Puritan governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony urged in vain that the sentence be repealed. It still stands upon the statute books of the state. The sentiments for which Roger Williams was driven into the wilderness are to-day the universal belief of the Republic. Entire and complete religious freedom has spread beyond the confines of the little state and is undisputed even in the old Puritan colony that drove the apostle of religious liberty from its domain. On the face of it, the demand to revoke the sentence of banishment against a man a century dead would provoke a smile and a jest. But there is a deep significance in the act. Religion is a personal matter between man and his Maker and all systems that have tried to intervene whether they were Church or State, have found themselves set aside by the onward progress of events.

The sunbonnet of our grandmothers is very much in evidence these June days. On the golf grounds, at the seaside or the mountains bright young faces peer bewitchingly out of a mass of frills and frippery that go to make up the modern sunbonnet. Last year a few sunbonnets appeared but the "fad" was to go bare headed. This year the bonnets seem to be firmly fastened in popular favor. There are many who recall the pink and green gingham abominations of their childhood with wonder as they gaze at their modern substitutes. The old sunbonnet were purely utilitarian. They had wide stitched spaces where slats of pasteboard were inserted. This made a stiff circle of ugliness around the face. Many were rebellious against the sunbonnet—how many times it was lost and how altogether and pleasantly naughty it was to tie the stringy strings in a hard knot and let the freckle shielder dangle at the back of the neck. What blissful elegance when one was allowed to

wear a hat! So fickle Dame Fashion has waved her wand and the old-time horror is a thing of beauty. The sailor and the Alpine are stiff and mannish and the knowing maiden retreats behind the shade of her coquettish frills of lace and organdy and re-lives the old rhyme, "Tying her bonnet under her chin, she ties a young man's heart within."

The free people of the United States and the lovers of liberty the world over are taking an intense interest in the subject of Finnish freedom. The little peninsula of Finland is naturally a part of Sweden but in 1809 it passed into the control of Russia. It was, however, allowed to keep its separate Parliament. Finland grew and flourished under the mild rule of Russia. Its people are educated and progressive. Suddenly the "Great White Czar" who has been purchasing the most advanced theories of government, has issued a most tyrannical edict in respect to Finland. Her Parliament is to be abolished, Russian is to be the official language taught in all the schools, a Russian governor is to be sent from St. Petersburg and in every way the people of Finland are to be Russified. The Finns in this country are using every effort to influence public sentiment and by the signing of petitions to prevent the loss of their freedom. The little peninsula is in a fever of patriotic protest. There are nearly 200,000 Finns in the United States and their effort and those of their countrymen at home are giving the world at large an extensive knowledge of this little known section, the peninsula of Finland. The former Czar promised them autonomy when the peninsula was ceded to Russia, and they demand faith from his descendant Nicholas.

The spring and summer of 1899 have brought some remarkable tercentenary events. April was the three hundredth anniversary of the birth of Oliver Cromwell, the man who shaped the revolutionary forces of a religious rebellion into a powerful lever that raised the plain people to a position they never have lost in England. June brings the three hundredth anniversary of one of the great masters of art—Velasquez. He was born at Seville in June 1599. He was of Portuguese descent. He began to study art in the old Spanish city. He learned more than the art of painting in the house of his instructor and soon married the daughter of his master. All of Velasquez's early paintings are of peasant life. It was this contact with reality that made his work so strong a contrast to that of the school of idealists. He began to paint portraits and by a succession of fortunate acquaintances finally reached the King. His portrait of Philip IV. of Spain gave him instant and lasting fame. He was the court painter and many of the haughty grandees of Spain in the hour of her greatness look forth to-day from the canvases of Velasquez. Every mark of royal favor was showered upon the once obscure painter. The Cross of Santiago was awarded him. This was a favor bestowed until then only upon the nobility. Velasquez painted a portrait of Charles I., the victim of the storm of Puritan rage that Cromwell directed. This portrait is unfortunately lost. Velasquez painted landscapes and historical paintings of great value but it is his portraits that he is seen at his best. There is a force, a penetration, a directness about them that carries conviction. The spirit of the age he painted lives in the work of the great Spanish master. There are but few specimens of Velasquez's work in this country and those few by no means show him at his best. By far the greatest and most valuable of his works are among the art treasures of Madrid. The tercentenary is to be celebrated with becoming ceremonies. One cannot fail, however, to draw a mournful historical parallel between the Spain of Velasquez and the Spain that celebrates his three hundredth birthday.

This is in every sense an altruistic age. If the world does not grow better it will not be because men and women of this nineteenth century do not give of their time, their talent, and their wealth to accomplish that end. We grow more and more in the appreciation of the fact that man's material surroundings have a powerful ethical influence. Bare walls, unsightly buildings and sordid surroundings produce a barrenness of soul that gives pitiful results. A factory and a factory town usually show only the hard side of unlovely toil. One western factory owner has produced a moral revolution in a town where his factory buildings were long the crowning eyesore of a general desolation. A bed of flowers was planted in the middle of a grass plot. The spot of brightness found an answering gleam in tired eyes. Then the practical owner realized some lack in the general effect and with hard-headed business sense called in a landscape gardener and gave the factory grounds into his hands. The factory was worse than a desert, it was an inhabited horror, but it was made to "blossom as the rose." The influence of the vines, flowers and grass extended to the unlovely cottages of the employees. As a result that neighborhood is a bower of beauty. Even June would love to linger there to count her wealth. The whole surroundings of factory and cottages are like some beautiful private park. A healthy spirit of emulation has arisen and prizes are offered for the best results. It is an idea that deserves wider adoption. The factory owner became so much interested that he paid for horticultural lectures during the winter. Lantern slides gave views taken at Cornell and at the home of Helen Gould at Irvington. All that discipline and wealth could command was at the disposal of the employees. An oath is rarely heard there now, gossip is about trees and plants. The "garden" condition has brought back some of the other conditions of Eden. All because one practical man tried an experiment in altruism.

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**WORK FOR** boys and girls, spare time and vacation. \$2 to \$5 per day easily made. Write to-day for particulars to J. F. Wales, 2283 D. Pitt Ave., New York.

**25,000 SCHOOLBOYS WANTED AT ONCE**

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The musical score for "The Raleigh Two Step" is presented in a standard piano format. It begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 2/4 time signature. The score consists of several systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The Trio section is clearly marked and includes a first ending bracket. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and bar lines, indicating a lively two-step rhythm.

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## THE RETURN OF THE RALEIGH.

The First of Dewey's Famous Fighters  
Reaches Home.

Probably no arrival of any ship in America has caused the interest which did the return of the Raleigh from the Philippines last month. Her voyage from Manila through the Suez Canal and Mediterranean was a series of grand ovations, none exceeding in spirit those of the British garrisons and the welcomes of England's fleets at the various stations on the way home.

When the good ship reached New York she was welcomed with an enthusiasm which will be remembered for years by those that witnessed it. For several days New York was in possession of the gallant officers and tars of the Raleigh. American enthusiasm always brings forth music commemorative of any event of national importance and the return of this war vessel which took such a conspicuous part in the greatest naval engagement of modern times, naturally could be no exception to this rule. As a consequence there have been a number of works of more or less merit produced by en-

thusiastic composers.

But it has been reserved for COMFORT to publish for the first time one of those grand swinging two-steps which seem to have the triumphant martial spirit breathing in every note. So appropriate to this particular occasion was this composition that the composer could have made no more happy a hit than to name it for this popular ship, whose name at this time is on the tongue of every patriot.

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But turning from this event in our nation's history to the future we see that in a short time the Raleigh will be followed by one even greater, the Olympia, which will bear to our shores the great naval hero, Admiral Dewey. At that time we may look for many more pieces of appropriate musical welcome of which COMFORT hopes to produce at least one of sufficient value to make it of lasting value.

It is pleasant at such a time to contemplate how much better able people are to judge the real merit of music than they were a few years ago. While at no time have Americans been deficient in musical taste, still at no time until a comparatively recent date has the general public been educated to a point where really fine music was appreciated as well as that of an ordinary class. It is probable that there would not have been that wonderful increase in musical cultivation had the art been kept in a position where only the rich could indulge in it, as was the case up to a few years ago.

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Cuba has had several names in history. The first was Antilla, then Juana, after a Spanish prince. Ferdinand was the third name, Santiago the fourth, then the Isle of Ave Maria. The original Indian name, Cubanacan, signifying "where gold is found," was finally adopted and this has been shortened to Cuba.





CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

**A**LTHOUGH the automobile is engaging the attention of the newspapers and the class of people who seek the novel wherever it may be found, the bicycle is just as popular as ever; even more so. The demand for wheels has been so great that many stores have turned patrons away, and nearly all have opened evenings in order to accommodate the spring rush of trade. One Chicago concern disposed of 358 wheels in one day last week, and others are about on a par. The men who are handling the thirty-inch wheel report remarkable success. The chainless wheel continues to get its share of the patronage, but on the whole the demand seems to be as well divided as the classes of wheels.

The accompanying illustration shows a variation of the ordinary chainless, and one which has its advantages. We have the privilege of using a photograph for our cut, which has never been given for illustration before. The inventor is Mr. F. J. Repp, and it seems to us he has a good thing. Patents have been applied for both in America and foreign countries and no doubt it will soon be on the market. This wheel has a large and small straight cog-gear on each side with lever pivoted on rear axle, a slot in said levers engaging crank pins and the said shafts being fastened to large cog-gears, through frame with ball bearings. These levers move up and down, instead of in circular movement, and the pedal crank sprocket and chain impart the motive power to the rear wheel. The advantages gained by this invention are said to be the doing away with the troublesome chain and with imperfections in bevel gearing, it is less tiresome to ride, as the up and down movement requires only two-thirds of the movement of legs and feet required in circular crank movement. Pants guards are unnecessary as the feet always remain above the levers and pedals. This would be a great advantage to lady riders, as it does not necessarily require short skirts, and dress guards are not needed. Another advantage over all heretofore invented chainless wheels which have an objectionable wide tread is that the tract on this can easily be made at two inches and even less; the pedals being placed in the center of the levers instead of outside, as on the old-fashioned crank. It will be noticed that on this invention the mechanism is concentrated in a very small space by the rear wheel, not even reaching as far as rim of rear wheel, so that it can be covered with a small transparent case insuring well-lubricated cogs free from grit, and wear, and less friction. This wheel can easily be kept clean and apparently does away with the objections of not being able to see the nature of the mechanism of the wheel they are riding. The wheel can be made of the same weight as usual run of wheels.

Another brand new design in bicycle construction shows a wheel which is apparently without any means of transmitting the power from the pedals to the driving wheel. There is no visible chain, and likewise no awkward bevel gearing exposed to view. The fact is, there are two chains, but they are snugly stowed away in the depths of the tubes which comprise the frame construction. The advantage of two chains is that the strain on the parts of the wheel is evenly distributed. When the bicycle is in motion these chains are constantly revolving through the triangles formed by the rear tubing, the apex of this triangle being directly under the seat, where they pass over a pulley. A pedal shaft is mounted in one of the lower corners of the said frames, the shaft of the drive wheel being passed through the lower corner and a supplemental shaft passing through the apices of the frame, both shafts being supplied with sprocket wheels. The outer edge of the larger sprocket is fitted into the slot openings of the frame, so that the chain in making a tour of the triangle passes completely over both wheels. The tubing affords such complete protection that there is rarely any occasion for removing it for any purpose whatever, but means are provided for doing this should the occasion arise.

A new gear for a chainless wheel has come upon the market. It consists of a large intermediate wheel to connect the sprocket with the rear wheel. The gears of the front and rear wheels are meshed into the intermediate gear, which is made of two rings, one forged within the other. The mechanism is accurate and the whole is encased. The design lacks beauty, but there is no extra weight. In view of the growing popularity of the chainless wheel, new gears are to be expected.

Another new invention is an electric light which can be recharged by a contrivance attached to the wires of an ordinary incandescent lamp. A manufacturer has recently produced one and claims that it is soon going to be a common thing. His directions for charging the electric lamp are given as follows: Remove the incandescent lamp from electric fixture and screw socket in its place. Then screw incandescent lamp in socket. Remove the small incandescent bulb from lamp reflector and screw battery-charging tap in its place. Turn on electric light current and touch the ends of wire to a moistened piece of litmus paper. The end that discolors the paper is the negative pole and must be inserted in the proper hole. Insert the other end of the wire in the remaining hole. Simply turn on the screw at the top of the lamp, and if proper connections have

been made the large incandescent lamp will light and the recharging of the batteries begin, which, in order to obtain a full charge, should be continued for four hours, but must not be carried further.

Many wildly enthusiastic wheelers, when enumerating the manifold blessings bestowed on humanity by their idol, the bicycle, declare that within twelve months it has accomplished what all the physical culturists have never been able to—made women throw away stays and laces and rely for support on their muscles. Now, the best authorities on women's needs and anatomy do not at all advise her to lay whalebones aside entirely, and it is only a small minority who, when wheeling, think it necessary or advisable to lay aside their corsets. The bicycle corset proper is supposed to give greater freedom and suppleness of motion to the wearer's body than do ordinary stays.

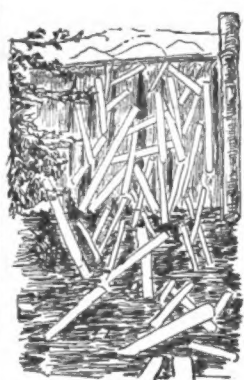
Another invention designed exclusively for the fair sex is called the "blush preventer," and is the brilliant idea of a gentleman named Cherry. It strongly resembles two enormous bat wings which are arranged one at each side of the wheel, in such a manner as to completely conceal the raiment and motion of the rider from the knee down. Whether it will become popular is still a very open question.

Of course, the ideal stocking is the man's be-chess-boarded golf stocking. But very few women can wear them as they are uncomfortably rough. However, there is a mixture of silk and wool, which is very effective in these designs and not at all uncomfortable to wear. Sure it is that the bicycle has done more to "emancipate" and develop the modern woman than any other invention. It is one of the most powerful factors for health and enjoyment of both men and women, and we can all paraphrase Sancho Panza a little and say:

"God bless the man who first invented the bicycle!" Wherever he may be.

## LOGS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



watch them come, toppling helter-skelter over the dam; and as they glide by on the blue water they seem strangely like human voyagers on the stream of life. Hurrying, jostling, push-

CAN see them as I write, those logs that once were trees. Far up in the wilds of Maine they were cut, their branches lopped off, and the tall, straight trunks, still covered with their thick coating of bark, were dragged through the forests, over rocks and briers, through mud and mire, and flung into the lake to take their long, winding way to the saw-mill far down the river—miles away.

From my window just above the bridge I see them come, toppling helter-skelter over the dam; and as they glide by on the blue water they seem strangely like human voyagers on the stream of life. Hurrying, jostling, push-



ONE VARIATION OF THE CHAINLESS.

ing, crowding, on they go, each one seemingly caring only for himself, and trying to get the best place; the stronger ever crowding out the

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weaker, the larger usurping the place of the smaller, mounting upon them, using them as vehicles for their onward progress, and so sailing triumphantly, successfully on above the roar and grind, the wear and tear, the buffetings and misery of the weaker crowd whom they have pushed down and submerged in their own wild struggle for supremacy.

Worn old veterans many of them are, bruised and scarred with the long voyage; some with their bark entirely rubbed away by rough contact with their fellows—the larger number bare in spots. Here comes a hoary old veteran, straight and strong, but utterly stripped of bark, and not a single log to keep him company as he nears the end of his journey. Here comes a rollicking crowd of young, slender logs—too light and small for any great friction with each other; their bark is still intact, and they come dancing gaily on like a party of young folks out on a frolic.

Here is a slender, black log with a very small, short one hugging it closely, and no other log near them; and my fancy pictures the sad young widow and her only child wending their lonely way through life.

Next comes a stalwart father with his wife and family, and behind them, at a safe distance, comes a dapper beau hesitating between two girls, now bobbing over to one and then quickly veering to the other, and I can almost hear him say:

"Oh, happy could I be with either, were I'ther dear charmer away!"

Here plods on a crabbed old bachelor all alone, who thinks "women are so extravagant!" Now a bevy of them bear down upon him, seemingly bent upon taking him by storm, but he perceives their intention and turns his back squarely as they draw near, and floats off at a tangent, leaving them poking all their sharp corners at each other.

Yonder speeds along a company of sturdy logs, floating with the current, heads all pointed for the distant haven; with nothing to trouble or annoy them they enjoy each other's society, and behave civilly to each other as gentlemen should; swerving gently from side to side to give room for all knots or elbows. But lo! an eddy is reached. The waters begin to boil and bubble, and threaten to engulf the voyagers, and in an instant the calm courtesy of the crowd has vanished. Each one for himself is now the motto of all, and a struggle for supremacy sets in. The stronger override the weaker, and rush on to success and safety over their submerged and overthrown brothers. So like to poor, weak, selfish humanity.

And so they travel on; ever shifting, ever changing, ever presenting new pictures to my fancy; pictures of human nature in all its weakness and frailty, in all its manliness and strength, in all its need of help, both human and divine.

In East Africa is a river that flows in the direction of the sea but never reaches it. When only a few miles from the Indian Ocean it flows into a desert, where it disappears.

When an ostrich is preparing to hatch, she scratches a hole in the ground about the size of a bushel basket. Eggs are then laid day after day, and are arranged around the hole. When 21 are laid the bird picks them into the hole.

## LIGHTNING BUTTER MAKER.

Butter Made in Two Minutes.

I have tried the Lightning Butter Maker you described in your paper, and it is a wonder. I can make butter in two minutes and it is elegant. You get more butter than when you use a common churn. I took the agency and every butter maker that sees it, buys one. I have done splendid and made as high as \$38 a week. I have sold three dozen and they give the best of satisfaction. I know I can sell one hundred in this township as they make butter so quickly, and make so much more than common churns and are so cheap. Some one in every township can make \$200 or \$300 selling them. By writing to W. H. Baird & Co., 24 Baird Building, Pittsburg, Pa., you can get circulars and full information so you can make big money right at home. I have made \$60 in the past two weeks, and I never sold anything before in my life.

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New '99 Models \$12.50 to \$30. None higher. We guarantee to save you money. Largest variety to select from. Lowest prices ever quoted. Every customer satisfied. Shipped subject to examination and approval. No money in advance. A few good AGENTS WANTED. For price list and particulars address the old reliable cycle house,  
**BROWN-LEWIS CO., (A.) 293 Wabash Ave., Chicago.**  
(The above Co. is reliable and every wheel a bargain—Editor.)

## CUTS STEEL AS A DIAMOND CUTS GLASS.



**Every Housekeeper Needs One.** The Old Reliable "Star Sharpening Rifle" sharpens all Table Cutlery, Scythes, Mowing Machines, Corn Cutters, Grain Cradles, Brush Hooks, Knives, etc. Shoemakers and Butchers use them. 200,000 now in use. They are practical and durable, do perfect work. The Old Reliable "Star Sharpening Rifle" cuts steel as a diamond cuts glass, and sells fast with agents at great profits; sample sent free if you enclose 18c. for a six months' subscription to **COMFORT**. Will send one dozen by express for \$1.25, easily retails for 25c. each, more than one hundred per cent. profit.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



## WE GIVE THIS WATCH FOR A CLUB OF 4.

Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us \$1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us \$1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address  
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We furnish samples free to agents. F.S. Frost Lubec, Me., sold \$132.75, retail, in 6 days. Write for Catalogue, new goods, rapid sellers. Richardson Mfg. Co., 6 St., Bath, N.Y.

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This beautiful embossed basket work silver finish set will be sent free to anyone who will sell two boxes of our **Active Liver Pills** at 25c. each. We give this valuable and beautiful set to reward you for speaking in good word for our medicine which acts quick and cures Constipation, Dyspepsia, Malaria, Rheumatism, Nervous disorders, etc., etc. We send the two boxes of **Liver Pills** free all charges paid, you simply sell them at 25c. each, send the 50c. to us and we forward the complete set all charges paid. You can easily sell it for 50c. if you so desire, the bar pin alone is worth more than the cost of the Pills—but we adopt this method to get our **Great Family Remedy** before the people quickly. Address  
**THE G. O. PILL CO., Augusta, Maine.**





WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



**T**HE question of what kind of a gown to wear on the first long ocean voyage taken by a woman is a momentous one to that woman, and while the reader of this article may not now have in mind a trip to Europe, she doesn't know when it may be possible, and it is just as well to be fortified beforehand for an emergency of this kind. If she can ask the advice of some one who has already taken such a trip, she is in luck—if not, accept these few suggestions for what they are worth.

The knowing woman wears a natty tailor gown on board, and until the steamer has cast off and sailed away. Then she lies herself to her stateroom, removes this gown, packs it carefully into her steamer trunk, and dons a heavy cheviot suit consisting of a skirt and jacket, with a silk blouse. This should be a gown that can stand the spray and the sun, and should be worn all the time when on deck.

She also has in her stateroom a black silk skirt with one or two fancy silk waists, for evening wear, for there are many little entertainments on board an ocean liner.

Of course a mackintosh is indispensable. Most of all will be appreciated a warm, heavy ulster, or cloak with a hood attached, similar to that shown in our sketch—for if she expects to spend much time on deck she will find, even in summer, that a heavy garment of this kind is absolutely necessary, in mid-ocean, and whether promenading or lying in a steamer chair, will consider it her dearest possession. The hood protects the head and neck much more closely and comfortably than a hat possibly could, particularly while lying in a steamer chair. Then the coat, being long, can be pulled about the feet, in addition to the steamer rug—for both are necessary at times.

The feet are in evidence on a steamer's deck, therefore the footwear should be carefully attended to. A pair of pretty low shoes, and a pair of heavy, well-fitting boots, are all that is necessary, for deck wear.

Heavy gloves and plenty of vells are necessary—also a few simple remedies in case of sickness, so as not to be dependent upon the ship's doctor. These should include stimulants, smelling salts, etc., and a hot water bottle.

A bathrobe and three or four changes of underwear added to the foregoing, will be all the clothing necessary for steamer use—and these garments can all be packed into the steamer trunk, which is about all the luggage allowed in one's stateroom.

Just before landing, get into the natty tailor gown.

Of course these suggestions are intended for those who intend to stay abroad several months—but as a matter of fact, the trip, if only to last a few weeks, can be very comfort-



A COMFORTABLE STEAMER WRAP.

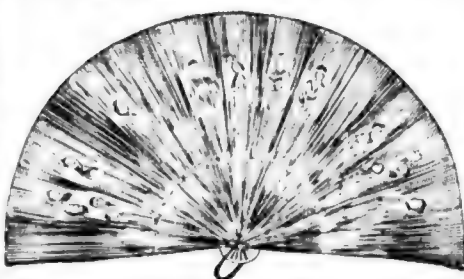
ably accomplished with only a dress suit case and shawl strap for luggage. A lady told me recently of a trip which she and her husband took last year, with only this luggage. They were gone six weeks, traveling about continually and so could not be bothered with trunks. They stayed long enough in cities to have their underwear laundered, so were not obliged

to take many changes; and right here let me say, that this can be accomplished in one day, abroad; if you send articles to be laundered in the morning they are brought to you again on the evening of the same day. The people I am speaking of didn't even take an umbrella with them, expecting to buy one if it was needed, instead of carrying one around all the time—but in the six weeks they were gone they didn't need an umbrella once. Of course when they came home they had more luggage, having bought some boxes for things they had bought—for what woman can resist a Paris hat?

The monogram fan has been superseded by the portrait fan—and society women now have portraits of their friends painted on their fans in all sorts of attitudes and groups. Of course those women less favored by fortune would have to be content with photographs, carefully pasted onto a fan—and this makes a very attractive and often-times a highly-amusing possession.

Here is an idea which will interest the girl whose engagement has just been announced—that is, of course, if her friends get wind of this new fad—which is called a linen shower.

A luncheon is usually given by some married friend of the girl who has announced her engagement—and with the invitations to this luncheon is a suggestion that a piece of linen is to be brought for the girl in whose honor the luncheon is given. Consequently, each guest comes laden with something made of linen—a serviette, a centerpiece, half a dozen napkins with the initials embroidered in one corner, a pair of towels with embroidered initials, finger bowl doilies, tray doilies, in fact, anything that is linen and that will go to make up the necessary items in the new household. All of which are very acceptable, and show to the girl how interested her friends are in the coming event. A girl cannot have too many of these things, and when they are contributed by her friends, and embroidered by them, they gain an added value which in-



A PORTRAIT FAN.

creases as the years go by and these pieces of linen live on, while, perhaps, the givers have passed out of the life of the recipient; but she is always reminded of them as she handles the piece of embroidery done by each one, and she never forgets the one who remembered her at the happiest time of her whole life.

## ONE OF THE BRAVEST.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



**C**OL. Richard Henry Savage—soldier, scientist, poet and novelist—has a wonderful and varied store of thrilling adventure and personal experience to draw upon for his fascinating and intensely dramatic novels. One feels instinctively, when reading them, that the writer is describing persons, places and incidents with which he is perfectly familiar.

Born in Utica, N. Y., in 1846, he went five years later with his parents to San Francisco, where he was a pupil in the first public school of that city. As a lad, in the mining districts of California, he saw much of the wild life of that time and had many adventures by flood and field. Graduating with honors at West Point, in 1868 he served, as staff officer, with Generals Halleck, Ord and Thomas, in the west; with General Stone, in Egypt; filled a number of important diplomatic positions abroad; engineered railroads and various works in Texas and California and has traveled pretty much all over the habitable globe with wide-open, observant eyes, making friends in many lands where his novels—translated into several languages—are eagerly read, recalling, to more than one, days gone by.

It is only about eight years since his first novel—"My Official Wife"—was published. It has been translated into a dozen languages; dramatized and played in many places. It was

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## LADIES I Make Big Wages AT HOME—

and will gladly tell you all about my work. It's very pleasant and I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. MRS. A. H. WIGGINS, Box 5, Boston Harbor, Mass.

followed, in rapid succession, by some twenty-five others among them, "Prince Schamyl's Wooling," "The Masked Venus," "The Little Lady of Lagunitas," "In The Swim," "A Modern Corsair" and "Lost Countess Falka." "The White Lady of Kamanivarka," just out, is intensely interesting. In his New York home, surrounded by many souvenirs of his wanderings, Col. Savage was busy with his pen when the call to arms a year ago sent him as Colonel of the Second U. S. Vol. Engineers to Cuba. Suffering from malaria and exposure during the campaign, he returned to the States, ten months later, and joined his wife—a strikingly handsome and highly accomplished lady—in Washington where she had been, during the winter, the recipient of a great deal of social attention.

The men of Col. Savage's regiment will soon present a sword to him, none of the officers being allowed to participate in the gift.

The lantern lily of Survia, South America, has two sets of eyes, so as to catch the light from all directions. Its light is like that of an ordinary fire-fly, but is much more brilliant.

Some of the wooden churches of Norway, though over 700 years old, are still in a wonderful state of preservation. This is said to be due to the coats of tar with which they are painted frequently.

The test of a true Persian carpet is to drop a red-hot coal upon it. If the singed wool can then be all brushed away with the hand, leaving no trace of the burn, the carpet is of the best quality.

The material of which the shells of beetles is made is known as chitine. It is a material far more indestructible than steel. Only certain mineral acids affect it. Thus the shells of beetles have been preserved for ages imbedded in rocks, so we know to-day just how the insects looked. The largest beetle in the world comes from Venezuela. When full grown it weighs nearly half a pound.

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Ladies' Tailor-Made

Wash Suit \$1.98

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foulard prints, in ecru ground,

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greatest bargain of the season.

Jacket and skirt price only \$1.98

Give bust, waist mea-

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nothing but your order and we will

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M. PHILIPSBORN, 138 State St., Chicago.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

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Pins are made into cute shapes of keys, hearts,

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Pins are the most modern pattern offered at

Bargain rates so you can sell from two to a dozen in

nearly every house at five cents each. They come as-

sorted Roman and bright gold and silver plated, and

have an unlimited use. The hair, the waist, the neck,

the dress, and in fact they are now required in all parts of the clothing.

You send us your full name and address

and we send you the assortment as above to sell for five and ten cents

each, you return the money \$1.30 cash to us and we send you all charges

paid one of these Solid Gold Shell Opal Rings, besides the large opal

in centre there are two small Rex Diamonds on either side as shown

in cut. This makes a most attractive setting and these Rings are sold to

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goes with each one, that it is Solid Gold Shell and warranted to wear for

Three Years. Buying these Rings in thousand lots as we do we get them

at a great bargain and they cannot be detected from a \$12.00 Ring. If you

desire an Emerald or Ruby instead of Opal we can send you either one.

Send for the Jewelry outfit to-day. Address

ART JEWEL CO., Box 654, Augusta, Maine.

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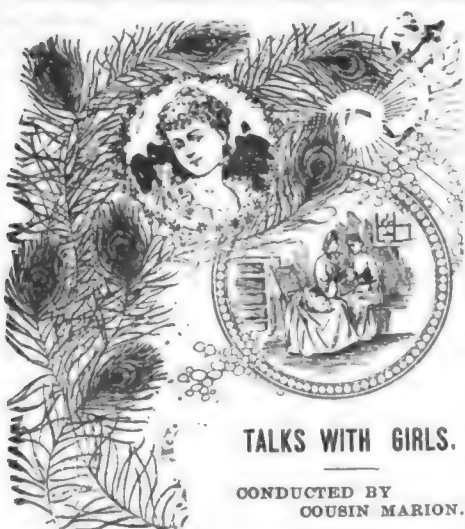
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## TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY  
COUSIN MARION.

Here's a June greeting to you all, my dears, and may the roses shower upon you and the sweet sunshine of the rarest days of June fall over across your pathways through life.

And now to the letter-box, and first I lay hands on is from Violet of Monrovia, Ala., who wants to know about wearing of mourning by an eighteen year old girl. It is just as well for a girl of that age not to wear mourning at all, but if she does, the usual rule should be followed. The wearing of mourning is becoming in some localities to be a matter of the taste of the wearer.

Belle, Covington, Ky.—It is correct for a young man of seventeen to call a girl of fourteen Miss. (2) Never heard of a "jewelery." Something like a Jaberwock, probably.

Fay, Montague, Texas.—Two girls of sixteen may chum together, but don't get too chummy. (2) Don't accept presents of jewelry from young men. (3) Always show your love letters to your mother. She is the safest person in the world for you. (4) Watches are worn, but more for use than ornament.

Hyacinth, Etoile, Ky.—There is no especial harm in paying a few cents for the alleged photograph of "your future husband or wife," but why not pick up any picture and save the money? It is just as likely to be the one.

Fay Green, Chatham, Ills.—When a girl is not engaged she may properly receive the attentions of as many men as will pay them to her. (2) It is not at all unusual for a sister to marry her dead sister's husband, and such marriages are quite as happy as any others.

Leota, Christopher, Ills.—It is proper for a lady and gentleman to shake hands when meeting, and a gentleman may assist a lady in removing her overshoes. Introduce the gentleman to the lady, always.

Swell, DeSoto, Ia.—It is a mean thing for a young man to let another girl answer a letter he has received from a lady, and as mean for her to answer it.

Queen of Hearts, Colorado Springs, Col.—By all means ask for an explanation. Never let a friendship be lost if explanation will save it.

Louella, Coffeetown, Ark.—Don't write to any young man unless you know him very well, and be careful what you write to any man. (2) Of two beads drop the one you think the less of; either that or drop them both.

Merle, Bryan, Texas.—The best way to find out if a young man thinks a great deal of you, is to encourage the attention of some other young man. He cannot stand that very long.

Blue Eyes, Ringgold, La.—Put your poetry away for a year and in the mean time read all the good poetry you can find. Then read over your own and see the difference between then and now.

Bertha, Bolivar, Mo.—The only real language of the postage stamp is the profane language the cancelling clerk indulges in when you do not put it in the upper right hand corner. Always put it there.

Lonely Maid, Pittsburg.—You are worrying over something that nobody will ever know except yourself. Consider it as a mild little joke, just as other people do who are in the same fix, and you will be just as happy as if everything was as you wanted it. (2) Ask your druggist about depilatories.

Rebel, Pittsburg, Pa.—Break up your crowd. Eight of you are enough to scare away all the beaux in town.

Dew Drop, Modoc, Ills.—From eight to half-past ten o'clock is the proper duration of a social evening call for a man. (2) If you have money you may expect to be sought on account of it. (3) Sometimes a correspondence with an unknown person turns out well, but it is awfully risky. Don't do it.

B. B., Ballou, Texas.—The Methodist Church by its rules does not allow dancing, but it does not always discipline its members who dance. (2) To change membership in churches you merely take a letter from that which you belong to to that which you wish to attach yourself to. (3) There is no market for poetry in this neighborhood.

Ruby, Harlemlville, N. Y.—Write to any publisher in New York City, about book covers, enclosing stamp for reply.

Florence B., New York City.—Write the young man offering an explanation and if he declines to hear it, forget the whole thing.

Ette, Heather, Fla.—It is all right to accept presents from your cousin, but it isn't right to marry him. It is unlawful in most states.

Pauline, Jackson, Miss.—Young men should not call girls by their first names without a "Miss" before them, and girls shouldn't marry on short engagements.

Little Lew, Milwaukee, Wis.—Have an usher present the flower to the graduate on the platform. (2) A Catholic and Protestant should not marry unless one or the other is willing to change churches. There is nothing wrong in that for there is but one Christ and one gospel, and they belong to all churches. Churches differ only in form, which is non-essential.

Circle, Chicago, Ills.—Don't marry for a while yet. So long as you are in doubt it is better to wait.

Paddie, Randall, Ills.—I do not think you committed any great impropriety in going with the young fellow to his home. Circumstances make a great difference in such matters.

Forget Me Not, Chicago, Ills.—The life of a nun is a hard one and should not be undertaken until one knows thoroughly what it means. Consult the priest in your neighborhood.

We Two, Franklin, Neb.—Stop loving the same man. It is silly for two girls to do that. Draw straws for him.

Jessamine, Long Prairie, Minn.—In view of the fact that you are in your father's store you might be allowed a little wider liberty in speaking to drummers without introduction, than otherwise, but be careful. (2) Don't give your card to a strange man you meet on a crowded train, unless he proves to you that he is entitled to your acquaintance. (3) You cannot translate and sell a foreign story if copyrighted. (4) If your friends knew the man who asked you to drive and to go to the opera it would be proper even on short acquaintance.

Trilby, Clinton, Iowa.—You are probably too indifferent and have a disagreeable and snippy manner that men don't like. Many young girls are that way at the beginning. Try to be agreeable.

Rosie W., Monongahela City, Pa.—Don't be in a hurry to marry without your parents' consent. Wait until you are twenty-one. You will never regret it.

Bonnylyn, Woodaves, Pa.—Girls of sixteen will do very much better not to be having beaux for at least four or five years. This answers the questions of a half-dozen more cousins who have asked me.

A. M. M., Summerville, W. Va.—Rings are sometimes exchanged when the owners are not engaged. (2) There isn't room here to tell you all that would be suitable for a wedding dress. Consult your own taste and purse. Same for the second day dress. (3) Yes, a lady may give a man her picture, but she should know him well.

Hyacinth, Albion, Idaho.—Be careless of the young man's feelings and let him see by your regard for others that you do not care for him. Until he talks love to you you cannot do anything else.

Diana, Hesper, Miss.—Keep on declining to accept the young man's invitations and he will learn after awhile that you do not want to go with him and will quit. (2) Love is blind, and so long as you can see deformity in the nice man's face, you do not love him. Take him as he is or let him go entirely.

Orange Blossom, New Pine Creek, Ore.—By no means go to your friends and tell them that you hear disagreeable things about them. Tell them only the pleasant things.

Leta and Lota, Litchfield, Ills.—It is difficult to suggest any line of work for you after you graduate. Usually girls who have to work, take anything they can get, and do better as they grow older and more experienced.

Priscilla, Pokagon, Mich.—You write a plain, good hand. Write to the principal of any Art School in Detroit about designing. Enclose postage.

Betsy, Corsicana, Texas.—It isn't wrong exactly for a girl to whistle and sing and be noisy about her own house, but it isn't as nice as if she were quieter. (2) Fifteen year old girls should wear dresses to shoe tops.

Lottie C., Pittsburg, Pa.—Under certain circumstances it is quite correct to ask a gentleman to be your escort to wherever you may want to go. (2) There is no reason why a lady should not conduct a dancing school.

Y., Charlottesville, Va.—I do not know of any one who buys old postage stamps. Consult some of the stamp dealers advertising in *COMFORT*.

Huldah, Bentley Springs, Md.—Seeing that you do not love either of the two men who love you, do not marry either. (2) Agate is the birth-stone for June.

Graduate, Batavia, N. Y.—Nothing can be prettier for a graduating gown than simple white, not low in the neck and not short in the sleeves. The "sweet girl graduate" isn't that when she appears in colors.

Black Eyes, Del Norte, Cal.—Don't speak to the young man till you are introduced to him. And don't worry about him. Let him worry about you.

Cousin Audrey, Akron, Ohio.—If there is no truth in the stories, you had better not do anything risky in order to prove they are false. Let the young man of bad reputation and good social position go his way and don't try to reform him by imperiling yourself and your happiness.

There is some mistake about the language of stamps, which cousins are sending to me for. Cousin Marie of Austin, Ills. please respond?

Gray Eyes, Elkton, Ky.—Ask your home physician for the address of one of the hospitals in Louisville, and write there for information concerning trained nurses and where to find a school of training. But do not do it, unless you are especially adapted to the work and are prepared to be on a strict night and day for the rest of your working life.

Wood Violet of Libertyville, Mo., informs Cousin Daisy of Newport, Ky., that she may find what she seeks by writing to John McAfee Sons, Parkville, Mo.

Now dears, all your questions are answered, either directly or through others, and I am going to say by, by, right quick, and send you all on your way rejoicing.

COUSIN MARION.

## DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure the piles from any cause or in either sex, or any of the diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhoea, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc. I will gladly mail a free box of the remedy to every sufferer. Address, Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 71, Kokomo, Ind.

## BEAUTIFUL PIECES FOR PATCH WORK.

Huge large squares such as our grandmothers used in a thousand ways for patchwork. We give away to any one who will send six cents for one package of these great squares. This is to introduce our mammoth illustrated catalogue into new homes where bargains are wanted and to obtain your address to send future favors to. Be sure to get one or more of these packages, we will send to your friend for an additional six cents. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Me.

The days of the week were divided from Saxon idolatry. The seven deities the Saxons most adored were, the Sun, the Moon, Tuisco, Moden, Thon Friga and Seater.

# FITS

If you suffer from Epilepsy, Fits, Spasms, Spells, Falling Sickness, St. Vitus's Dance, etc., have children, relatives, friends or neighbors that do so, or know people that are afflicted with New Discovery, Epileptide, will PERMANENTLY CURE them, and all you are asked to do is to send for a FREE Bottle and try it. It has CURED thousands where everything else failed. My 90-page Illustrated Book, "Epilepsy Permanently Cured," FREE. When writing, please give name, AGE and full address. All correspondence professionally confidential.

W. H. MAY, M. D.

Fray Laboratory, - 94 Pine St., New York City.

Always Mention COMFORT When You Write.

## A NEW BLOOD CURE.

Free Trial Treatment Privately By Mail To All Who Suffer.

There has been discovered by the State Medical Institute, 755 Bass Rd., Ft. Wayne, Ind., the most remarkable blood cure ever heard of. In hundreds of cases where the hair had fallen out and the whole skin was a mass of eruptions this wonderful specific has completely changed the whole body into a clean, perfect condition of physical health. Every married running into Ft. Wayne brings scores of sufferers seeking this new and marvelous cure and to enable those who cannot travel to realize what a truly marvelous work the Institute is accomplishing they will send free to every sufferer a free trial treatment so that everyone can cure themselves in the privacy of their own home. Do not hesitate to write at once and the free trial will be sent by mail sealed in a plain package.

## THE MAN OF THE HOUR.

The Remarkable Achievements of Prof. Weltmer, the Great Healer Are Causing Universal Astonishment.

The Nineteenth Century has been correctly termed the most important



PROF. WELTMER.

in scientific advancement and mental development, but no new discovery in any line is at this time attracting such widespread attention as Prof. Weltmer's Method of Magnetic Healing. In fact, the phenomenal cures made by him during the past two years have been so remarkably astounding and wonderful as to demand the attention of scientific and medical men all over the world. His method of treatment banishes disease as if by magic. Hon. Press Irons, Mayor of Nevada, was afflicted with kidney and bladder troubles for ten years and could find no relief in the usual remedies. In one week he was completely restored by Prof. Weltmer. Not only does this remarkable man cure hundreds in his infirmary, but he possesses the ability to cure at a distance, and all cures by this method are equally permanent. Mrs. Jennie L. Lynch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles. In less than 30 days she was cured. Mrs. M. M. Walker, Poca, W. Va., suffered severely with female troubles and eczema and was entirely restored by Prof. Weltmer in a month. Thousands of other sufferers all over the land have been restored in the same manner. This is positively the only known cure for lost vitality and kindred ailments. Send for a copy of the Magnetic Journal a 40 page illustrated magazine, giving a long list of the most astounding cures ever performed. It is sent free.

TEACHES HIS ART TO OTHERS. Prof. Weltmer teaches his wonderful art to others, and it is the grandest and best paying profession of the age. Many of his students are making \$10.00 to \$50.00 per day. Taught by mail or personal instructions. Address, Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., The American School of Magnetic Healing.



## BEAUTY PINS.

A Pair of Gold-Pins.

These choice Ladies' pins are needed in every household, there are one thousand and one uses for them. No woman or child is now considered well dressed without two or more of these useful and ornamental pins. We are selling thousands of them and in order to introduce SUNSHINE into new homes and acquaint all with the necessity of this new style pin, we will send one pair free to all who send 10c. for a three months' subscription to our great monthly. Great profits made selling them for shirt waists and other spring and summer clothing. Buttons are being entirely done away with by this happy innovation. Send 10c. to-day and get your subscription and pair of Beauty pins free. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

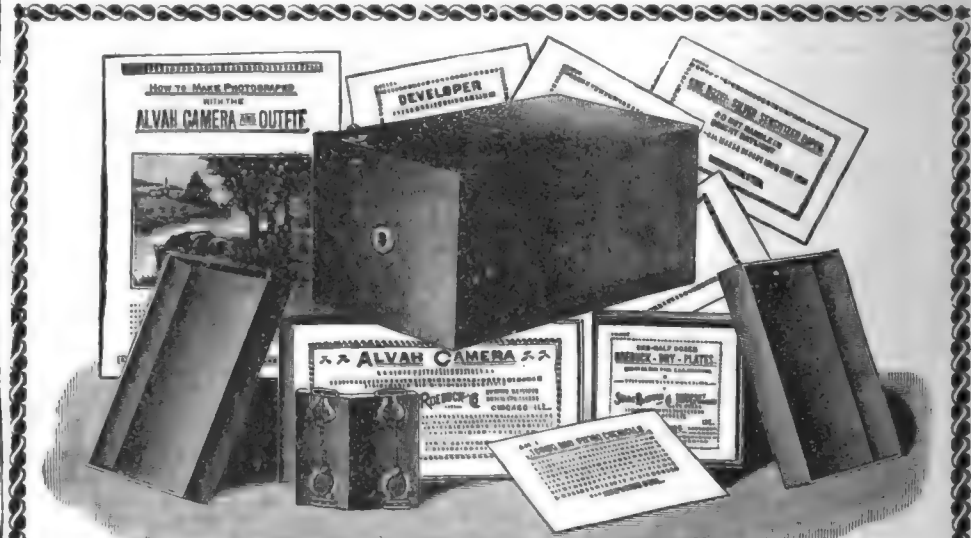
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We give a beautiful gold plated watch with a genuine American movement for selling only 30 packages of our wonderful new perfume at 10 cents per package. Each watch is perfectly timed, regulated and guaranteed for one year; just the same as an Elgin or Waltham. We give a gold filled ring, set with a genuine Zambesee diamond, guaranteed to wear two years, for selling only 10 packages at 10c. per package. These rings can't be sold from \$100.00 diamond rings even by experts, and can easily be traded for other valuable property. Send no money. Simply send your name and address on a postal card and we will mail you the perfume; also our large premium list of costly presents and hundreds of testimonials from pleased customers. When perfume is sold, send us the money and we will send you the present at once. We take perfume back if you can't sell it. STANDARD PERFUME HOUSE, 369 Dearborn St., Dept. B1, Chicago, Ill.

## This \$1 Alvah Camera Free...

A PRACTICAL WORKING CAMERA WITH OUTFIT OF MATERIALS FOR TAKING, MAKING AND DEVELOPING FIRST-CLASS PICTURES Given Away Free on these Easy Conditions.

THIS CAMERA AND OUTFIT COSTS YOU NOTHING—We ask no money for it, but will give it to you free as a present for a slight effort on your part to increase our circulation. Send us 3 subscriptions to COMFORT, enclose with your letter the seventy-five (75) cents which will be payment in full for the subscriptions, and the camera and complete outfit, as here illustrated and described, will be sent you by mail or express (at our option) prepaid. All charges paid by us.



## THE ALVAH CAMERA Takes Photographs, Landscapes—in fact any

of the high-priced cameras. THE ALVAH comes with a complete outfit securely packed as follows—so that you are not compelled to buy an expensive lot of materials before you can take and develop pictures:

1 ALVAH CAMERA 1 PACKAGE HYPO 1 DEVELOPING TRAY 1 TONING TRAY  
1 BOX DRY PLATES 1 PRINTING BACK 1 PACKAGE DEVELOPER 1 INSTRUCTION BOOK  
1 PACKAGE SILVER PAPER 1 PACKAGE FIXING POWDER 1 PACKAGE RUBY PAPER

YOU CAN EASILY GET THREE SUBSCRIBERS. In these hard times many would feel reluctant subscription to our paper, although there is no question that it is well worth that amount to anyone; but hardly any person will hesitate a moment over the trifling sum of 25 CENTS when it will purchase a YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION to so valuable and entertaining a paper as COMFORT. At this very low price you need only to show a sample copy of our paper and you will secure three and even more subscribers right in your immediate neighborhood. Every member of the family is interested in COMFORT.

HOW WE CAN MAKE THIS WONDERFUL OFFER. We know that COMFORT is the best paper of its kind published, and we want to introduce it into every household in the country. We intend to more than double our subscription list in 1899 and take this unique and liberal method of doing it. Everyone now a days is interested in photography. Haven't you often wanted a camera to take the pictures of your friends and loved ones and the familiar scenes about the house? With the ALVAH you can do this, and we give you the opportunity of obtaining this up-to-date CAMERA FREE OF CHARGE. All you need to do is to send us three subscriptions to COMFORT, enclose the 75 cents payment for same and the CAMERA AND OUTFIT will be sent to you prepaid.

THE ALVAH CAMERA retails regularly at \$1.00, and is as good as any of the cameras that are sold at \$1.00 without the developing outfit. But we have made arrangements with one of the largest camera manufacturers in the United States to supply us with these cameras, at a figure which is a mere trifle above the net cost of the camera to the manufacturer. We give our readers the benefit of our advantageous contract.

THE ALVAH CAMERA USES REGULAR GLASS PLATES (not films). It comes with all the necessary articles and materials and everything is explained in the instruction book, "HOW TO MAKE PHOTOGRAPHS."

FOR 55 CENTS CASH (postage stamps taken) we will send the ALVAH CAMERA AND OUTFIT to any address prepaid, together with COMFORT, for one year. We make this offer to give everyone a chance. If it is not convenient for you to secure three subscribers send us 55 cents and get the camera and outfit and our splendid paper for a full year.

ANYONE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OFFER. If you are already a subscriber send us the 55 cents and we will extend your subscription one year from the date your present subscription expires, besides sending you the entire camera and outfit. Address

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COMFORT, Augusta, Me.





EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

#### \$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the Comfort circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this prize offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

#### CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Alfred Fisher,	\$3.00
C. D. Jones,	2.50
Rose S. Browne,	2.00
J. M. Baltimore,	1.50
T. S. Allison,	1.00

#### DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

"Now is the winter of our discontent Made glorious summer;" and we are all in tune, after the long, dreary winter of storms, blizzards and intense cold which held the whole land, from Maine to Florida, in its icy thrall for so many months, to cry with real earnestness "Welcome, thrice welcome, June." As we throw ourselves under the shade of some big, leafy tree to read our June number of COMFORT we can hardly realize that so little time ago we were suffering from intense cold and storm; but we enjoy our summer weather all the more by contrast with the severity of the past winter.

Our first letter this month tells us a little of the early life of the eminent author who has furnished so much entertaining reading for our amusement in the long, warm summer days.

"The accompanying picture is an exact representation of the building in which Mark Twain, the celebrated humorist, was born. It is located in Florida, Mo., and although it is over half a century old, it will doubtless continue to stand for many years—an object of much curiosity and veneration to the admirers of the genius who was born there, and who, from such a humble birthplace, at last attained so high a position among the writers of the present day. Mark Twain was yet a small boy when the Clemens family moved from the old house and went to Hannibal, Mo., where Mr. Clemens, his father, engaged in the grocery business.

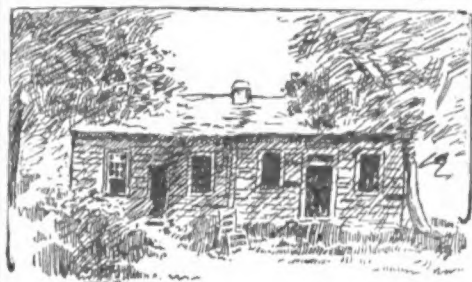
"The vicinity in which the great humorist passed his early life is well represented in his various literary productions; and it cannot be doubted but that his peculiar surroundings afforded him excellent opportunities to gather the fundamental incidents and characters, which, perhaps somewhat changed from the original to suit his own views or fancy, were afterwards described in such an interesting manner as to give the writer great fame, and cause his name to become well known in almost every family.

"For instance, an extensive cavern called the 'Hannibal Cave' is the one described in 'Tom Sawyer.' This wonderful production of nature, located about two miles below Hannibal and close to the Mississippi river, has ever been a great curiosity, and many people constantly visit it to witness the great variety of queer things in its lofty passages and rooms. The extreme limits of this cave have never been discovered; and the many mysterious channels, branching from the main passage, are well calculated to confuse any one who is not well acquainted with the cave.

"Again, an eccentric man named William Muldrow, who attempted to establish a city on the Mississippi a short distance above Hannibal, but whose plans came to naught, because, chiefly, the river in times of high water completely flooded

the entire site of his town, is said to have been the original of Mark Twain's amusing character called Colonel Mulberry Sellers. Then, too, steamboats were numerous on the Mississippi river; Mark Twain travelled much on these boats and mingled freely with the boatmen. In fact, it is said that he learned to be a pilot under the instructions of an old river veteran. Hence it was that in his book concerning life on the Mississippi he was enabled to describe everything so well, and so true to nature.

"There are numerous aged men who claim to have known Mark Twain very well when he was a boy. These men tell many amusing stories concerning the humorist. If he really did have all the friends who claim to have been intimate with him, the number of his young companions was certainly very large; if all the anecdotes told of him are true, the experiences he underwent were many and various. There are many curiously carved walking canes in existence which their owners claim were cut from the trees which stood in front of the house where Mark Twain was born; but as the



MARK TWAIN'S BIRTHPLACE.

same number of trees are still standing which were there originally, these statements are certainly incorrect.

"The parents of Mark Twain, and two of his brothers and a sister, now lie buried in a cemetery near Hannibal; a short time ago the great writer had a monument erected at each grave."

ALFRED FISHER, Hannibal, Mo.  
Our old friend, Alice Teasdale formerly of Texas, now writes me a nice letter from Trilla, Ill., to which place she has removed. We are glad to hear from her again.

Our cousin from the far west writes us a cool and refreshing letter on Alaska as a summer camping ground, which may induce some of you to turn your steps thitherward for your summer vacation trip. She says:

"Here is a view of Alaska for cousins who are not gold seekers. At the beginning of summer the new comer to Tacoma is divided in his mind between two vacation trips. Shall he spend a few weeks in the charming valleys about Mt. Tacoma or shall he journey by sea to the wonderful northern country of Alaska? It is the latter trip that I shall try to describe. The steamers which leave Tacoma for the north are large and comfortable and well suited for their battles with the ice, which they often encounter. It is not only to gold seekers that Alaska hath charms, for all nature lovers revel in the wonders and beauties of this younger child of our great republic.

"Steaming up the coast our craft makes its way through the innumerable islands which fringe the shore, to Fort Wrangle on the 'pan handle' of Alaska, and soon after leaving this we come in sight of the most wonderful of all the Alaskan views. It is the great Muir Glacier, flowing down from its lofty heights in the mountains and slowly dropping its great bergs into the sea. It is thus that icebergs are made. The great frozen river, like a swirling torrent caught in the midst of its leap and changed to glittering solid, creeps like a serpent around the mountains' peaks and plunges into the sea, where, the support of its bed being lost, great masses break off with a thunderous roar and float off with the tide to be gradually melted as they reach the warmer latitudes of the south.

"Our steamer skirts the edge of the glacier. Above us rises the pure white wall of solid ice hundreds of feet high, each crystal reflecting the sunlight and forming about itself a fringe of rainbow light. It is a time when one appreciates the insignificance of humanity. All this beauty is enhanced by the glory of the midnight sun which sweeps around the horizon, disappearing from view for only a few hours in the twenty-four, and leaving behind it a strange weird glow which is neither day nor night. The aurora borealis is magnificent,



ICE FLOES IN NORTHERN PACIFIC.

and as its great streamers sweep up over the mountains and their majestic grandeur, one is awed into silence by the might of Nature.

C. D. JONES, Tacoma, Washington.  
Here is a handful of nice letters from some of the younger cousins, bright little masters and misses

who-by-and-by are going to take their places among the older and successful writers. The first one, Kermiller Moss of Clinton, Miss., says "I am nine years old. I take the COMFORT, and like very much to read the letters to Aunt Minerva. They are very interesting." Grace Fulton of Paris, Pa., sends me a very well-written account of George Washington, and Anna H. Conyer, of Pleyto, Cal., writes interestingly of the lynx; but, you see, girls, what we want on our page is accounts of things which you have seen and know of yourselves, and not what you have read about. Do you see the difference? Elsie Smith of New Rochester, Ohio, has a long and carefully written description of volcanoes, which I cannot use for the very same reason. Too bad, isn't it! But read the next letter on "Swapping day in Estanaleue," and you will see what I mean, I am sure.

"On the first Monday of every third month Court convenes in Estanaleue (and other 'County seats' in Tennessee) when justice is dispensed, with more or less impartiality, to the denizens of town and country. Court days are also 'swapping days,' and the attractions of the temple of justice are feeble in comparison with those of the swapping ground, a vacant lot of an acre or more, furnished with rows of posts supplied with iron rings, to which the swapping stock is hitched.

"Crowds of men, white and black, on horses and mules, stream into town along the various highways, congregate at the jockey lot, and the fun commences. Let us saunter around among them to see what we shall see and hear. We can only do so in imagination, for ladies seldom come down town on Court days, although southern chivalry is out in full force among these rough-looking men and a lady, should she venture into the maze of stamping horses, braying mules and bantering men would be accorded unbounded respect. Such a motley crowd! Such an aggregation of bony, aged animals! Kipling's line—'A rag and a bone and a hank of hair' fully describes both saddle and steed in most cases, and a veterinary student could learn all there was to know about the bony structure of his future equine patients without the trouble of dissecting them.

"The swapping talk is carried on in quiet tones, and there is no bustle or confusion, except when some unhappy mule raises his shrill voice, not tempered by the softness of the climate, in loud remonstrance against his miserable lot in life; or when, from too close a proximity, two fractious Rosinantes fight a duel with their hind feet. Let us question this swapper in shirt-sleeves and jeans trousers stained with the red soil of iron-filled hills.

"What can we buy a horse for?" we ask. He hastily slips a bottle in his pocket and turns to face us.

"Well, fum ninety cents to two hundred dollars, mum—hold on thar, Bill—swap ye this hoss fur yer mule, and give ye a drink ter boot! Beg yer pardon, mum, thought yer was gone!"

"Another—'Here, you feller with the white filly! Trade yer anything I've got 'ceptin' my wife, ef yer'll boot me enough.'"

"But the bottles have circulated until the swappers have become either over-jolly or quarrelsome, so we leave them to get rich off of each other in this one branch of business in which cheating is not only allowed by all but openly commended or made a matter of jest.

"To illustrate one rule of the swappers, I knew a girl who after her father's death carried on the home plantation a year or two. She decided to get rid of a superannuated horse on the farm, and bade one of her hired men take it to town on Court day and trade it off. But the poor faithful old horse was hardly out of sight when she repented of her ingratitude. When the man returned with a strange steed she ordered him to go back and bring home the old denizen of the family stables. He refused, saying: 'Can't do it, Miss—if I was to rue back they wouldn't never trade with me no more!'

"Imperiously she again commanded the man to bring back the old horse. He refused, saying all the rules of the swappers forbade such a proceeding. An ex-slave standing by, in whom the instinct of obedience was inborn, vaulted on the back of the unwelcome stranger, loped away and soon returned with his young mistress' faithful old horse which she never 'swapped' again."

ROSE S. BROWNE, Athens, Tenn.  
Among western farmers the rabbit has become a nuisance, a thing to be despised and exterminated as rapidly as possible; but who can read the following story of mother love and mother courage, and not feel a thrill of admiration and respect for the brave little rabbit who so courageously fought for her little ones!

"The courage of a mother in defending her offspring is truly grand and wonderful. At this time fear is unknown, and the parent rushes on to what would seem to be certain destruction. In defense of her nest the sparrow will attack the hawk, and the puny wren will pounce upon the cat; but who would have thought that the rabbit—that timid, innocent little creature—would show fight under any circumstances! But so great is mother-love that even Bunny grows bold when her little ones are in danger.

"Three years ago, while driving across a tract of prairie in northwest Nebraska, I witnessed a scene that, to me, was indeed surprising. On a slight elevation about fifteen rods in front of me I

saw a rabbit, a little 'cotton tail,' jumping about and acting so queerly that I determined to find out the cause of such odd performances.

"On going up near the spot I discovered that bunny was valiantly battling with a large 'bull snake.' In the grass close by was a form, or nest, of young rabbits which the snake was trying to reach in order to secure a dainty dinner. But an unexpected obstacle had appeared in the way, and his snaking was baffled.

"The rabbit would run up, and, seizing the snake with her teeth, she would endeavor to pick it up and shake it as a dog would have done; but her strength was not sufficient for this and she could only raise a part of it from the ground at one time. Then bunny would loosen her hold, and, jumping behind the snake, she would grasp it by the tail and drag it backwards away from the nest where her dear little ones were sleeping in fancied security. In this way she worried and punished the snake until it turned and ran off through the grass.

"When the battle was ended I was standing close by the nearly exhausted rabbit, but she seemed utterly indifferent to my presence. Blood was trickling from her ears and nose where the snake had bitten her, but as this snake is not poisonous I trust that this brave little rabbit is still running to and fro over that vast prairie.

T. L. ALLISON, Cushing, Iowa.  
Now let us take another summer trip to a "cool place."

"Soaring aloft to the dizzy altitude of 14,444 feet above sea-level, stands Mount Ranier, one of the snow-clad monarchs of the Cascade Range of the Pacific coast. This range stretches from the northern boundary of California to the southern boundary of British Columbia, a distance of six hundred miles, in which there are more great snow peaks than in almost any other mountain range of equal length in the world. Mounts Baker, Ranier, Adams, Jefferson, St. Helens, Hood, The Three Sisters, Thielsen, Scott and Pitt are all crowned with eternal snows, and among them all Mount Ranier, for grandeur, altitude and isolation is conceded to be the 'King Peak.'

"This grand mountain is located in the heart of the Cascades, about seventy miles from the city of Tacoma, Washington, and is plainly visible for a radius of one hundred miles or more, rising from a mass of timber-clad mountains, and soaring upward until its glittering summit seems to pierce the very heavens. For many years it was considered impossible to reach its summit, but during the last ten years large numbers of persons have made the ascent. This is attended with great labor and peril. Yawning chasms, moraines, glaciers, beetling cliffs and precipices, and mountains of snow and ice must be encountered before the summit can be reached; but a magnificent view rewards the successful climber. Four great snow peaks, Mounts Baker, St. Helens, Adams and Hood, rear themselves around him, while a large number of streams find a source around the base of Mount Ranier, and flow in every direction.

"With the single exception of Mount Shasta,



MT. RANIER.

Mount Ranier is the loftiest snow peak on the Pacific Coast. Mount Shasta, according to accurate Government estimates, measuring only a few feet more than this."

J. M. BALTIMORE, Spokane, Washington.

Hugh O. Bates, of Kearney, Neb., is another of the younger cousins who has written me a long letter on old Fort Kearney. Hugh has chosen a very interesting subject, but his letter is so long I could not use it and I found it impossible to condense it.

Lottie E. Held, of Princeton, Maine, writes a pleasant letter on Mammoth Cave, but as I have recently published a letter on this subject I could not use this.

Many thanks to Docia E. Bond of Wiggins, Miss., and Lawson Tatum, of Green Pond, Alabama, for letters received.

And now I have used all my space, so goodbye for another month. AUNT MINERVA.

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DR. C. T. SANDEN, 826 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y.





CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



**THE STRAWBERRY** is with those of us who live in New England and we herewith return thanks for same, which is much enjoyed by the large majority of mortals who have to eat to live.

Now there are short-cakes, and shortcakes, just as there are women and women—and while all may be good, they likewise may differ in glory, also in attractiveness.

Some people prefer a sweetened shortcake, similar to cake—but the sugar added to the strawberries is sweetness enough for most people and a paste made similar to that for cream of tartar biscuit is the regular old-fashioned shortcake. A good recipe for this is as follows:

Hull and wash two baskets of berries. Add to them a cup and a half of granulated sugar and set in a warm place.

Sift together a cup and a half of pastry flour, half a cup of cornstarch, half a teaspoon salt and four teaspoonfuls baking powder. (Of course level measurements are used, in all our recipes.) With the tips of the fingers work into the foregoing ingredients one-fourth cup butter; add gradually one cup milk and mix to a soft dough. Take out onto a floured board and knead lightly. Divide into two parts, pat and roll out each to fit a round baking pan. Bake in a quick oven about twenty minutes. Cut open each cake, spread with butter, and when it is melted, add the strawberries, which should be warm and slightly crushed. If a smaller shortcake is desired, make it of only one-half this recipe and of the rest make small biscuits. Garnish shortcake with whipped cream and some of the whole strawberries, if desired, or serve with it thick cream and sugar, which is much nicer, we think. Individual shortcakes are much easier to serve, and may be made in the form of a large biscuit, cut open and buttered and then garnished with the crushed and whole strawberries and whipped cream, as the large one is, if this is preferred. A large shortcake is an exceedingly awkward thing to serve, for the juice is very likely to accumulate as the pieces are cut, and overflow the plate, and in various ways embarrass the server.

Strawberry pies are delicious, also strawberry mousse, frappe, and ice. In making berry pies it is well not to use a top crust, but to bar across the filling with narrow strips of the paste, which makes a more attractive pie to look at, and there is no danger of a heavy top crust from the steam arising from the cooking of the berries between two crusts.

#### STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM.

Hull, wash and drain one quart berries and press through a sieve; add the juice of two oranges and one lemon, and one cup of sugar. Stir until sugar is dissolved, then freeze to a mush. Add one cup of thick cream beaten until stiff and then complete the freezing.

Cottage pudding with strawberry sauce is delicious. For the sauce take a basket of ripe berries and press them through a ricer. Boil together three-fourths of a cup of sugar and half cup of water ten minutes; cool and add the strawberry pulp.

Speaking of frappe, those who live in the country and each year make wine from grapes, will be glad to know of a good recipe for making grape juice frappe. For this, boil one quart of boiling water and two cups of sugar ten minutes. Strain into the can of a freezer, and when cold add a pint and a half of grape juice and the juice of two lemons. Pack in ice and salt, using equal portions of each. When the mixture is half frozen remove the dasher and set aside until time to serve. Serve in sherbet glasses.

We illustrate a canape of chicken and asparagus, and give some recipes for various kinds of canape.

Cut slices of bread one-fourth of an inch



GRAPE JUICE FRAPPE.

thick, and cut off the crusts, shaping the soft part like a diamond; let stand in the oven until crisp, on a buttered tin. When cold, spread with butter and then with cold chicken, finely chopped or sliced; then add a thin slice of pickled tongue, and above this arrange four asparagus points, with mayonnaise dressing and capers. Thoroughly chill before serving.

#### CHEESE CANAPES.

Cut thinly-sliced bread into strips one inch wide and three inches long; fry a delicate brown in butter, grate cheese over them and add a little paprika. Put them into the oven

and leave them until the cheese has melted. Serve hot.

#### OYSTER CANAPES.

Chop a dozen oysters and put them into a saucepan with a teaspoonful of finely-grated bread crumbs, a piece of butter the size of a walnut and a half cup of thick cream. Season with salt and pepper, and stir over a fire until it boils. Pour this mixture over thinly sliced buttered bread, placed on a hot platter.

#### ORANGE RINGS.

To three eggs slightly beaten add one-half cup sugar, five tablespoons melted butter and the grated rind of one orange. Add enough flour to make a soft dough. Roll out to one-half inch in thickness and cut in rings with a doughnut cutter and fry in deep fat; drain on brown paper and pour orange juice over the rings while hot.

If any housekeeper believes that the meat from which stock is made cannot be made into an appetizing dish, she should try the following method of preparing it: Cut the meat into suitable pieces, rejecting all fat and bone, but adding the gristle, which will be deliciously tender and cut into pieces about a half-inch in length. Fry in a spider with a tablespoonfuls of onion minced. Add six peppers, one clove, a tablespoonful of boiled ham, chopped fine; a bay leaf, a sprig of thyme, a blade of soup celery, cut fine, and two sprigs of parsley. When the butter is well browned add two tablespoonfuls of flour, and let it brown thoroughly. Add then a quart of canned tomatoes, and let the sauce simmer a little. Pour in a quart of rich jelly stock. Let the sauce boil slowly for half an hour, then strain through a puree sieve. Warm up a pint of the prepared meat in this sauce. Let the meat simmer about five minutes to become permeated with the flavor. The remainder of the tomato sauce may be set aside for any purpose needed; it will keep in a cold place for several weeks in winter.

Remains of a roast of lamb or mutton can be served in a variety of dainty ways. For in-



CHICKEN CANAPE.

stance, cut the cold meat in long, thin slices and heat them in a buttered baking dish with wine, preferably sherry, and a seasoning of salt, pepper and a little mustard. Serve very hot with a garnish of fried tomatoes or of mushrooms and a highly-seasoned tomato sauce. Or the slices may be well heated and served with a very rich white sauce and fried croutons of bread thickly spread with anchovy butter. Cold lamb chops are nice if trimmed, spread thickly with a puree of onions, dipped in egg and bread crumbs and fried; then garnished with parsley and served with tomato sauce.

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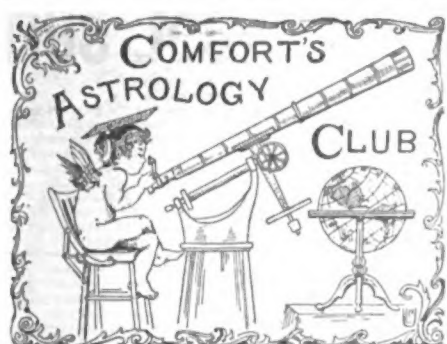
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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE moon completes another circuit around the heavens and overtakes the Sun, forming what is called the "New Moon," at about 24 minutes past 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the 7th of July, Washington Time.

**Figure.** The sign Scorpio is on the eastern horizon and Mars, its ruler, is in the 10th house. Mercury is in the 9th in trine with Herschel in the 1st house; Venus and Neptune are on the cusp of the 8th and in trine with Jupiter on the 12th, and Saturn is near the 2nd cusp just inside the 1st house.

Mars is "lord of the figure" and in the Midheaven, strong. This indicates predominance of a military spirit and that the war forces of the government shall overcome their enemies; though it likewise presages rebelliousness among the laboring mechanical classes conducive to strikes and disorderly demonstrations in sections, which may call for the interposition of the military to suppress violence. There is danger of heavier fire losses than usual and harm to human beings in certain parts of the country, and it is apprehended that the city of Boston will be one among other localities likely to contribute more than her share to the aggregate of such harm. Mars so prominently placed presages some unusual criticism of executive authorities over what is styled the severity or rigidity of measures adopted in dealing with the enemies of the nation and with those engaged in resisting the constituted authorities. Some public meetings of over-zealous "political reformers" or mischievous mal-contented are indicated, condemning the government authorities and seeking to promote conflict and discord in Administration ranks.

The lunation occurring in the 8th house and in the ruling sign of New York City points to the serious misfortune, if nothing worse, to some person or persons prominent there in the political councils of the country; the dethroning of principal authorities in political circles or some marked diminution or restriction of power of such authorities.

Mercury in the 9th, having a favorable aspect with Herschel, indicates an extraordinary amount of foreign travel in July; unusual agitation in church affairs following close upon the heels of some adverse development or fatality high in church ranks; some great discovery in the scientific world, and advantages gained to the nation through diplomatic agencies in international or commercial matters.

All the malefics in the angles, involving Venus on the 8th house, renders more dangerous than usual all bilious disorders; quickening liver and bowel troubles and cautioning the sanitary authorities to guard vigilantly against fevers of typhoid or malarial and infectious character, which unless guarded against would become epidemic, especially in southern and southeastern regions. These conditions introduce complications of like nature into other physical disorders and our medical brethren should be watchful in such respects that serious mischief does not come. The days around the 17th of July caution our railroads against a dangerous liability to accidents on the rail and from fires and explosions. Persons born about the 8th of March or June, 12th of September, or 10th of December, of past years, should avoid traveling in the middle days of July or of exposing themselves in places of danger. The postal service of the country seems to suffer some detriment or has some embarrassment in this month. There will be some violent atmospheric phenomena, heavy lightning, and probably some earth tremors around the middle days of the month.

Mars in Virgo is bad for Turkey, Paris and the West Indies. Warlike activity, large fires and bad fevers are apprehended as a result in those regions. Spain contends against disorderly or rebellious demonstrations in the home dominions and her citizens in southern climes suffer unusual detriment from diseases of an infectious character.

## CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR JULY, 1899.

**JULY 1-Saturday.** Do not invest thy money in merchandise for trade and part with thy means very sparingly; put a bridle on thy tongue and do not engage in controversies or lawsuits, and in such matters already begun, adverse action and erroneous decisions are likely in this day; let the jurist distrust his judgment in the forenoon and postpone decisions until later in the month. To the fair sex in the pursuit of pleasure the influences are ominous, and many of them meet strange and unfortunate experiences and encounter mischievous conditions for health. Proprietors of theaters and places of amusement should beware of making engagements on this day and should in these passing days be on the alert against injury to their interests. Unusual money losses occur at this time through speculation in stocks. Look out for declines.

**2-Sunday.** A favorable Sabbath day, though inclining more to active recreation than to sober contemplation or reflection.

**3-Monday.** The morning hours are unusually depressing and not promising of advantage from enterprises then begun. Great care should be exercised in the use of the pen; sign no documents, writings, and commercial men and bankers should give more than ordinary scrutiny to notes, checks and accounts; deception and errors are likely under prevailing conditions in monetary transactions; the afternoon and evening are by far the better parts of the day, especially for any of the recreative or pleasurable engagements, or literary work of the polite kind.

**4-Tuesday.** Independence Day. The early and late hours of this day are the poorest and in them it will be strange if some unusually violent and fatal catastrophe does not occur in our country; conditions are such that more than the usual harm from explosives, fires, or falling debris is apprehended; let all in charge of pyrotechnic exhibitions see that platforms are secure and that explosives are more carefully handled than usual. Combustion is quickened and fires are more fierce and destructive at such times. Let all precautions be taken, and in all cases of fire, let those in places of danger be careful of falling walls and not to jump or otherwise needlessly invite bodily injuries.

**5-Wednesday.** Defer any very important business until after the noon hour, especially if the same pertains to the agricultural pursuits or the dealings in or improvement of lands or houses; but bend every energy to the pursuit of business after the mid-day, dealing especially with persons in the elegant calling or those concerned with artistic or decorative wares or wearing apparel; musical merchandise, or dramatic appointments.

**6-Thursday.** One of the best days of the month; be up with the sun and urge business vigorously throughout the day; buy goods to sell again; deal with the banker and all persons of wealth and distinction. REGULUS advises his friends to push all honorable transactions to the utmost, which if now begun have more than the ordinary assurances of success, unless the individual nativity is radically very evil at this time.

**7-Friday.** Mixed conditions prevail here, such as give hindrances or dragging experiences in matters here inaugurated, though the day encourages vigorous prosecution of enterprises already in hand; have no dealings with usurers or money lenders and make no beginning in any venture that is not wholly open and above-board.

**8-Saturday.** As the sun leaves the eastern horizon, let all honorable pursuits be pushed with constantly increasing vigor, being watchful of thy means and seeing

that generous impulses and mere gratifications of desire do not override good judgment in the afternoon; the forenoon is recommended for special efforts of a literary character and for commercial contracts and enterprises.

**9-Sunday.** The extemporaneous religious discourse of the day will be likely to disclose unusual eccentricity of ideas and strange peculiarities of expression; the tongue will be nimble and language flowery.

**10-Monday.** One of the excellent days of the month, which REGULUS recommends to his friends for the inauguration of their most important ventures in life, especially if they pertain to real estate matters; dealing with plumbers, plasterers, glaziers, gardeners, farmers, contractors and builders and the classes generally who are engaged in the laborious and dirty vocations; make purchases of goods for trade; open new stores, effect monetary engagements; solicit pecuniary benefits and deal with banks and wealthy persons.

**11-Tuesday.** Give preference to the first half of the day for the most vigorous prosecution of business, having financial dealings in regularly established business and with persons engaged in business pertaining to the gratifications and pleasures of life, wearing apparel and all furnishings and decorations; but have caution as the noon and afternoon hours are passing; avoiding important engagements with manufacturers, mechanics and officers of large corporations or government authorities.

**12-Wednesday.** Evil. Avoid rashness of word or act and be not easily moved to wrath; the day is peculiarly dangerous for surgical operations, especially if performed upon the hands, arms, legs, or the abdominal regions; beware of fires, explosions, scalds and fractures. The middle days of this month are peculiarly mischievous in promoting bad fires and hurts by machinery or from falling walls or arches, and it is apprehended that the city of Boston may suffer particularly at such times more severely than at others from fires and accidents, and persons are cautioned to be unusually careful in the respects indicated while the middle days of the month are being passed, especially about the 12th, 17th to 20th, 25th and 26th. The 12th generally cannot be recommended for any important move of an initiative character.

**13-Thursday.** Use the early part of the day for asking favors of persons in authority and for crowding all the business engagements; less dependence can be placed upon the noon hours for any great undertaking.

**14-Friday.** Do not begin ventures concerned with fancy, artistic or decorative goods in the early hours of the day, but as the day advances enter with vigor upon thy several enterprises, initiating new work, making purchases for trade and forwarding all matters to the utmost; particular efforts may be directed towards real estate negotiations and the preparation and execution of writings pertaining to houses, mines, trust estates, and the estates of deceased persons.

**15-Saturday.** A very favorable day, inviting travel, business activity and enterprise. REGULUS urges this forenoon as a very favorable time for making new beginnings; the time is especially fortunate for the prosecution of literary and scientific pursuits; dealings with book publishers, printers and mathematicians; sign deeds, engage servants, remove and vigorously push all general business; seek no favor in the afternoon from thy superior.

**16-Sunday.** An excellent day for all the purposes for which it is appropriate. The day conduces to special enjoyment of the elegant in literature and art and renders courtesies between the sexes particularly agreeable.

**17-Monday.** This day is full of energy and enterprise and invites activity in nearly all the walks of life, but especially for machinists, engineers, mechanics, travelers, surgeons, electricians, military men, cutlers, and iron and brass workers; consult thy dentist and engage with manufacturers; exercise caution in handling combustible materials and in the night hours advance, for the times are mischievous for fires and accidents.

**18-Tuesday.** The middle hours of this day are the best and should be improved for forwarding all the undertakings; do not seek advantages from dealings with very aged persons in the evening when no favor should be expected from railway officials.

**19-Wednesday.** The afternoon is the best part of this day, especially for the artistic and elegant pursuits, but the late hours are evil and caution these not to change thy residence, travel unnecessarily; bear in mind the admonition to be watchful against fires, explosions, and all kinds of accidents coming from excitement or panic.

**20-Thursday.** Arise with the sun and give all thine energies to business; pursue literary vocations, travel, engage servants, do important correspondence, bargain for houses and lands and deal with the intellectual classes, booksellers, printers and publishers; deal with bankers, judges and persons of wealth and prominence; buy goods for trade, open new goods, and make beginnings generally.

**21-Friday.** Make no engagement towards wedlock nor expect much success in the elegant pursuits; do not make beginnings in any matter of importance either in the literary pursuits or in real estate connections.

**22-Saturday.** Begin early and urge all the mechanical pursuits; experiment in chemistry; deal with military men, druggists, bakers, tailors, barbers, carpenters, machinists and engineers; the afternoon is mischievous in creating shrinkages of the purse and ought not to be taken for any financial negotiation nor for soliciting favors from persons of prominence in official life.

**23-Sunday.** There is but little of promise for this day, especially of assistance to the clergy, those connected with religion, or for matters of an ecclesiastical nature; have patience with thy surroundings in the morning. Choose the afternoon and evening for mental and literary efforts and for engaging the mind with literature of character and force.

**24-Monday.** Give preference to the early morning and late afternoon hours for transactions of a pecuniary character, but have care in the use of the pen during the middle hours of the day, being sure to sign every agreement then as to books or publications, and careful not to make mistakes in estimates, accounts or correspondence.

**25-Tuesday.** The middle hours of the day are the best and are to be given preference for the general transactions of the day; bridle the tongue in the morning and avoid everything in the nature of a controversy; be watchful of the purse in the afternoon and evening when late hours should shun all dealings concerned with houses and lands or with agricultural products or mining productions.

**26-Wednesday.** On this day do thou beware of litigation and contentions, for this is a day of strife and discord; be very careful if compelled to be about machinery or electrical apparatus and in the handling of chemicals, fire-arms, hot liquids and fire, especially during the forenoon hours; the afternoon is much to be preferred for all honorable engagements; for seeking promotion or advancement from principal officers in large corporations, public officers and from thine employer generally.

**27-Thursday.** A day of excellent promise, inviting travel, business activity and enterprise. REGULUS points to this as another of the best days in the month in which the beginning of new undertakings and important steps in general business should be taken; he urges his friends to waste none of these moments in idleness and pleasure, no matter what may be their business or occupation. The day is particularly favorable for commercial enterprises of consequence, for money negotiations and real estate dealings.

**28-Friday.** Be in no haste in the morning hours to engage in business of an elegant or artistic nature; do not make purchases of fancy or decorative goods, nor give attention to the polite studies; but give thy best energies to business of magnitude as the morning is passed; dealing with persons in the literary walks of life and with those in clerical pursuits; during the noon hours make engagements with publishers, printers, travelers, mathematicians, inventors and scientists.

**29-Saturday.** Apply not for favor to thy superior in employment nor to persons in official stations, and keep thy temper in the afternoon, when do not trade in metals or cattle.

**30-Sunday.** The evening hours are the best for the enjoyment of the elegant in literature and the city of the imagination; few conditions, however, conduce to religious fervor or moral advancement; the middle hours of the day are depressing and do not promise satisfactory experiences in any direction.

**31-Monday.** Have no dealings on this day with public officers or managing authorities in great corporations or upon large public works, nor solicit favor from railway officials or from persons of prominence noted for eccentricity of conduct or habit; do no correspondence of consequence, nor sign any agreement in the nature of a bond. The time is peculiarly unfortunate for the majority of persons born about the 23rd of February, 24th of May, 27th of August, or 26th of November of past years, as they will seem to be strangely baffled in their efforts and hindered from realizing anticipations at this time and are likely to be just now in the midst of unusual mental anxieties, controversies or annoyances. Such persons should be very careful at this time about signing their names to writings, and should not travel or change residence at this time.

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## IN OUR NEW COLONIES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



**C**LEARLY few of us could have been prophets enough a year ago to have foretold that May 1st, would have been generally celebrated throughout the United States as a day commemorating the greatest naval victory of modern times; or that within a twelve-month America would be a first-class power with possessions both in the East and West. And yet such is the fact and the grand wave of patriotic feeling which sweeps over the country was evinced by the general observance of a day, which is popularly called "Dewey day," but which legally has no existence as a holiday. Not even on "flag day" during the last Presidential campaign, when all parties vied with one another to give the greatest visible manifestation of patriotism, was there such a general display of "Old Glory."

While all praise is due to Admiral Dewey, it was also a day in which the heroism and gallantry of thousands of others were recognized. And right here COMFORT wishes to say that one of the most gentlemanly and impressive acts of the whole war was that of now Rear Admiral John Philip, then commanding the Texas, who, after our great victory at Santiago, assembled his officers and crew on deck and reverently declared in their presence his belief in Almighty God and requested his comrades to give silent thanks to Him for their preservation. This simple act of manly reverence will be remembered in history when events of much greater importance are forgotten, simply as an example of the manliness of thought and action of the American officer of to-day. Our initial shows this gallant and God-fearing commander.

In the midst of this national celebration has been one discordant note. A band of so-called "Anti-Imperialists" in Boston, headed by Senator Hoar and Edward Atkinson have carried on a war against the Government. The latter gentleman has been sending pamphlets to the army in the Philippines which are intended to foster sedition and mutiny. What these kid-gloved gentlemen want is not clear further than that they oppose "Imperialism" which so far as learned no one desires; but as we have repeatedly pointed out, while it is so easy always to destroy plans, it is not so easy to make them. COMFORT's readers will notice that with all the criticism interested parties have made about the policy of President McKinley in the Philippines, that none of them ever undertake to say what the United States shall do. Any policy of cowardice would raise a howl of indignation. COMFORT believes that our knowledge of the archipelago as yet is not sufficient to say what is the best thing to do.

Meanwhile President McKinley's commission is gathering facts and will undoubtedly render a report which will show what is best to be done. It is unfortunate that already many men are trying to make political capital out of this and other questions, which are of the most material interest to us as a nation. Our people should learn from the wise course of England that on all foreign questions we should stand together as one man for our country. It is already shown that the insurgents have deceived themselves by the noise of these people in America into supposing that there was a great division here; and, that they would be supported. This was what gave them courage to arm and rebel. Whether official action will be taken against Atkinson cannot be foretold; but in any other country than America he would have ornamented the interior of a military fortress weeks ago. So slight is the opposition of the people to the government that it seems probable that this act of sedition will be looked upon with good-natured contempt. The only bearing it can possibly have is its impression on the Filipinos.

The military operations in the Philippines during the past month have been remarkable



BRIG. GEN. FREDERIC FUNSTON.

as being one continued success for the American army. At times the Filipinos have fought desperately, but have been driven from every field and whatever successes they have met with have been of such minor and temporary character that they have scarcely been noted.

One of the most remarkable things in the whole conduct of the war has been the superiority evinced by the American volunteers and regulars when left to fight in their own way. Readers of history will remember that had Braddock listened to George Washington, his ambush and defeat would have been practically impossible, as Washington desired the English army to fight in small bodies as skirmishers, but Braddock obstinately believed that war must be carried out under certain rules and formation of the military. At a later date Lexington and Concord showed what Americans could do with the flower of the

British army. Careful historians claim that had Washington himself not been filled with the same military spirit, the British army could have been beaten much earlier than it was, but that it took nearly four years of the War of the Revolution to discipline the Americans into machine soldiers and so that they did not want to fight in an independent manner. In the War of 1812 the most notable battle, that of New Orleans, was fought by riflemen who did their shooting without regard to military rule. The same fact showed in the Civil War; but as both sides were under West Point educated officers the armies were gradually made into disciplined forces.

In the present campaign the modern army tactics, which had seen the futility of large formations and columns of men advancing against modern weapons, have favored the American idea of fighting, and as will be seen in most of the accounts of the battles, the Americans advance in loose order with as little exposure as possible, and when ready rush the enemy with wild yells. This fighting has been something unheard of to the Filipinos who measured the white men from what they had seen of the Spaniards. It is probable that we shall never know the terrible slaughter that must have taken place among the Filipino soldiers. Photographs taken of the trenches and fields show their dead bodies in heaps, and they are undoubtedly learning a terrible lesson in this campaign. The whole advance this month has been a following up of the success at Malolos where it was expected that Aguinaldo would make a final stand, but which it will be remembered he deserted with hardly a blow after several defeats on the march toward that spot which was the insurgent capital.

The Filipino seat of Government was then removed to Calumpit, which is a large city a number of miles north of Malolos. The country is a hard one to fight in, and the roads very bad. There is a railroad running from Manila to Calumpit which crosses two rivers, the Bagbag and the Grande. Calumpit is situated on both sides of the Rio Grande. The papers have been full of the accounts of heroic adventures of our troops who steadily drove the Filipinos until they made their last stand in the tremendous fortifications thrown up on the further side of the Rio Grande at Calumpit. Here the works were so strong and the natural position was so impregnable that a handful of Americans could have held the position against an army, but in spite of this the Filipinos were driven from their forts with the loss of scarcely an American. The passage of this river is a remarkable military achievement, and General MacArthur, who commanded that part of the expedition, claims it as the greatest military event of the century and attributes its success to the daring skill and determination of Colonel Funston. It was undoubtedly the most daring enterprise of the campaign in the Philippines, and the flower of the insurgent army was driven back from the trenches and forced to flee northward toward the hills.

As this remarkable battle is but a type of many engagements that have taken place, and as it gives an idea of the individual bravery of the American soldiers, we will tell, in a few words, of the remarkable event.

On the night before the successful attempt, Colonel Funston with a small body of Americans determined to cross the Rio Grande. On the opposite side lay the whole of the insurgent army heavily entrenched and armed with artillery. It was necessary to cross. The first attempt at night was betrayed by the barking of dogs as Colonel Funston with fifteen men in the darkness crept across the dismantled iron bridge of the railroad. Colonel Funston with Corporal Furgeson crawled along the girders to within twenty feet of the opposite shore without the sentry, who was within ten feet of them, discovering their presence. Finding it impracticable to take any large body of men across this dismantled bridge, Colonel Funston called for one hundred and twenty men to cross the river a mile further down. It was in the moonlight that the barking of dogs betrayed this display of American activity. The insurgent army opened a heavy fire and they withdrew.

Undaunted by these two failures, Col. Funston persevered in the enterprise and succeeded in carrying the defenses in one of the most daring and courageous achievements ever performed. The insurgents, numbering several thousand, occupied these earthworks on the bank of the river, and the bridge was so stripped of its flooring that it was impossible to cross it. In the morning following the night movement, Col. Funston decided to cross the stream in the face of the enemy's fire. With his 120 Kansans he went to a point in the river several hundred yards from the bridge, where two privates swam with a rope to the opposite shore, where they landed and attached the rope to a part of the insurgent trench. The rest of the Kansans kept up a fire upon the trench every time a man's head appeared, and so partly protected these daring soldiers with the rope. At the point where the two men landed were several insurgents, but as the privates began yelling they fled precipitately. As soon as the rope was tied, three rafts pushed into the stream under a heavy fire, and advanced upon the trenches driving the insurgents before them, although the Americans were for a time under the heavy fire of rifles and Maxim guns. Col. Funston running and shouting lead the charge, and the insurgent army broke into a perfect rout.

Col. Frederic Funston is a man who will be heard much of in the next few years. He has had more close shaves for life than any one in the American army in the same period of time. He first got a chance to show publicly the rare stuff that is in him in 1884, before he had finished his eighteenth year. His father was running for Congress in Southeastern Kansas on the republican ticket. The campaign was going against him when young Funston took a hand in the fight, audaciously addressing a meeting held for the democratic candidate, and by his exhibition of pluck, logic and wit converting foes into friends. His father won by the largest majority the district had ever given.

Funston was city editor of a paper in Fort Smith, Ark., three years later. It was a democratic sheet and Funston was a republican. There was not enough in the work to fill his yearning for excitement. The editor went away for a couple of days and left him in charge. Next day the paper appeared as a republican organ. The editor, summoned by telegraph, arrived in time to save his property from destruction at the hands of a mob. "I didn't like my job and I didn't like the town," said Funston when explaining his conduct to his friends, "but I thought that I might as well let them know that I had been there before I quit."

A trip on a government botanical expedition

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which took him through Death Valley and involved hardships that disabled more than half the members of the party next furnished Funston with the spice of danger which for him constitutes the chief charm of life. He was sent to Alaska on a collecting expedition. "There are a lot of people who know more about botany than 'Fred' Funston," said the head of the bureau who recommended him, "but nobody will come nearer getting what he goes after." After going through Chilcoot Pass alone in a blizzard, being capsized in a canoe in rapids that had claimed scores of victims, and enjoying many other hazardous adventures, Funston came back from Alaska with the finest collection of botanical specimens that ever came out of it.

Finding difficulty in gratifying his thirst for adventure at home he joined a filibustering expedition and landed in Cuba in August, 1896. Gomez was quick to recognize a hero and gave the young Kansan a prominent command and abundant opportunities to display his reckless courage. Wherever fighting was to be done Funston was in the thick of it. He handled dynamite guns and bombs as coolly as though they were fire extinguishers. In one battle he led a charge of five hundred mounted Cubans against twenty-five hundred Spanish infantry and was wounded three times. His horse was shot under him, but heedless of the hail of bullets around him he stripped the beast of saddle and bridle—for such accoutrements were very scarce in the Cuban army—and walked with them off the field. After engaging in twenty-two battles in Cuba he returned to New York—the ninety pounds that was left of him—on January 10, 1898, a physical wreck, and, as he himself thought, crippled for life. But when the war with Spain was declared he had so far recovered that he was able to offer his sword to the President, and was commissioned colonel of the Twentieth Kansas. How he has swam rivers under fire in the Philippines and done other valorous deeds has thrilled all Americans who have read of them. He is hardly thirty-three years old, and is as modest and unassuming in demeanor as he is full of grit and pluck. Since this article was written, President McKinley has promoted him to be a Brigadier General for bravery and courageous service.

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